

day, October 13, 1998

Hizbollah claims attack on Israeli patrol

MARIYOUN (AP) — Lebanese guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb on Tuesday as an Israeli patrol was passing in southern Lebanon, Lebanese security officials said. Hizbollah claimed responsibility for the blast and said it caused "several casualties." There was no immediate comment on the incident from Israel. The remote-controlled device went off at about 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) on a road near the Crusader-built Beaufort Castle, the security officials said. They spoke on customary condition of anonymity. The area is about six kilometres northwest of Marjayoun, the main town in Israel's self-styled "security zone" in southern Lebanon. Hizbollah has been fighting to oust Israel's 1,500 soldiers and their militia allies from the zone, which Israel set up in 1985 to try to shield its northern towns against guerrilla incursions.

Jordan Times

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Region cannot afford military confrontation, Regent warns

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has warned that the region cannot afford a new outbreak of military confrontation, recalling the tragic consequences of the Iran-Iraq war.

"We saw the tragic confrontation between Iraq and Iran, an Arab and a non-Arab Muslim country, and I think that we have to learn from the lessons of the immediate past," Prince Hassan said in an interview with the Turkish newspaper, Milliyet.

"We cannot afford to stand by and watch a new outbreak of violence," the Crown Prince said in the interview which will be published today.

Prince Hassan pointed to the many areas of tension in the region which include the crisis in Kosovo, the Turkish-Greek tension, the Syrian-Turkish tension, the Palestinian-Israeli tension and the tension in the Horn of Africa, saying that "clearly none of us in the region can afford a divergence" from the Palestinian issue which is the top priority.

"As far as we are concerned, this (the Palestinian) issue is at the top of the agenda," said the Crown Prince.

Responding to a question, Prince Hassan said that the tension between Syria and Turkey is more of a chronic crisis and

that it was not one event that has led to it.

"Of course, when I refer to the crisis in terms of chronic, (I mean) there is a chronic problem in the region (over) issues like water and trans-boundary arrangements," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince urged the development of a concept for water sharing agreements between all riparian countries, Turkey, Iraq, Syria and for that matter, Lebanon, Jordan, the Palestinian territories, which are riparian to the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, noting that "we have a situation where Syria is a lower riparian, we are lower riparian to Syria."

This, said the Crown Prince, can only be achieved by the reduction of the tension currently existing between Syria and Turkey.

Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's appreciation of aid and support for the Egyptian demarche and the Iranian efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Syrian-Turkish crisis.

The Crown Prince said in response to a question that Jordan has not been asked by Syria to be involved in efforts to defuse the tension, saying that "any contribution that we make has to be with the approval, if not the blessing, of the two countries."

Prince Hassan said in

response to the question that it would be wrong to turn the Turkish-Syrian tension into an Arab-Turkish crisis, saying "that we need Turkey as a responsible, stable and proactive country in this region."

The Crown Prince stressed that the symptoms of instability has to be addressed, saying that "if we are to work seriously to prevent the balkanisation of our Near East region, then we have to emphasise that issues of sovereignty should be taken seriously and directly between sovereign countries."

Prince Hassan said Jordan realises the great human and material losses that Turkey has suffered as a result of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) operations and bombings which have hit major civilian concentrations including Istanbul.

"Our position on terrorism is clear: We condemn terrorism and we condemn acts of violence of this nature," whose victims are Turkish Muslims as President (Suleiman) Demirel said, Prince Hassan added.

On the subject of the presence of PKK elements in Syria, Prince Hassan said this issue has to be resolved by a clear step in which the international community can recognise that these elements have left Syrian soil, expressing hope that the firm position taken by Turkey can also give a clear signal that

there is a scope for problem resolution if the issue of violence is addressed conclusively.

Prince Hassan said in response to a question that in terms of statehood, "we think that Turkish President Demirel knows very well the delicate equilibrium required for maintaining stability in this region. We watched with interest for many years Turkish support for the Palestinian question which is as far as we are concerned at the top of the agenda."

The Crown Prince said in response to a question that the region and Syria cannot afford to support secession of ethnic minorities.

He said in relation to the agreement reached between Masoud Barzani and Jalal Talabani in the United States which referred to a federative formula that such a formula in terms of the states of the United States is not something because it is comprehensive, it is not ethnic, but to say to Turkey which recognises the Kurdish language and the Arabic language that it has to take a step further (is another).

Prince Hassan referred in that regard to the Iraqi position on its national integrity, which, he said, Jordan supports, stressing that "there has to be some kind of a contract agreed to between these different groupings within the statehood and sovereignty."

Explosion in West Bank village, reports of casualties

AZAWIYA, West Bank (AP) — An explosion went off Tuesday in an open field in the West Bank, seriously injuring a young Palestinian man villagers said was harvesting olives. The cause of the explosion was not immediately known. The Israeli army said two Palestinians were injured in the blast it believes was caused by an "explosive device," one of the injured may have been playing with. The army did not specify what type of explosive it may have been. The army said they were investigating the incident. The blast occurred in the village of Azawiya, 25 kilometres southwest of the West Bank town of Nablus. Doctors at the local hospital in Nablus, a few kilometres away, said a young man, who was not immediately identified, was in critical condition from the blast and was not expected to live through the night.



THEIR MAJESTIES King Hussein and Queen Noor Tuesday receive Senate Speaker Zeid Rifai, House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Smour and President of the Higher Judicial Council Taher Hikmat at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota where the King has just completed the fourth of six sessions of chemotherapy. King Hussein assured his visitors of his good health and discussed with them issues of concern to the country and people. The Parliament speakers and Hikmat wished the King a speedy recovery and safe return home. King Hussein conveyed his greetings to the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament as well as members of the Higher Judicial Council. His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh attended the meeting.

Commission suspends trading in Cement Factory shares

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — The Securities Commission Tuesday decided to suspend trading of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) shares at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) in preparation for selling a major stake of the government's share in the state-owned enterprise.

In a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the decision will take effect as of today to line with the regulations of listing of company shares at the AFM, and at the request of the company's board of directors.

The JCFC, which recorded JD11.9 million net profit in 1997, is among the major firms the government plans to privatise and is seen as a test case for Jordan's programme to open up its economy to foreign investment.

The suspension is aimed at "leaving the sale procedure with maximum transparency until the suitable decision is made regarding amendments to

the concession agreement and regarding the conclusion of the sale of the government's stake in the company," said the statement.

The government owns 49.3 per cent of the country's sole cement producer, which enjoys a monopoly until 2001.

The decision to suspend trading was taken at a meeting Tuesday of the Higher Committee for Privatisation, headed by Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh.

The Egyptian Investment Bank EFG Hermes, which is acting as the financial advisor to the sale, made its recommendations and available options to the government.

The statement did not specify the recommendations of the advisor, although it specifically mentioned that company employees will have the opportunity to purchase part of the shares at a discount to the sale price.

On Tuesday, the company's shares traded at JD1.80.

The decision to suspend trading was

taken upon request from the Cement firm's Chairman of the Board of Directors Hamdi Tabaa, who has been a strong opponent of bringing in a strategic partner, and has favoured selling off the government's share to local or Arab investors.

Finance Minister Michel Martn, head of the Prime Ministry's Executive Privatisation Unit Adel Qudah, Jordan Investment Corporation Director Mohammed Batayneh, and Tabaa comprise the committee that will negotiate with potential bidders.

Informed sources said the government has received several offers through the financial advisor, none of which required control of the board of directors of the company, or veto power over its decisions — a major concern voiced by parliamentarians opposed to strategic partnerships.

The new committee will evaluate the offers and make its recommendations to the Cabinet, sources said.

Israel says no deal with Palestinians after shooting Netanyahu visits today

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday that there was no chance of a peace accord with the Palestinians following the killing of an Israeli in an attack near Jerusalem.

"There will be no agreement unless the Palestinians fulfil all of their security commitments and, in light of this depressing picture, there is no chance of an agreement being signed at this time," a statement from the prime minister's office quoted him as saying.

However, Netanyahu did not cast doubt on his participation at a summit starting on Thursday in Washington with Palestinian

President Yasser Arafat and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Netanyahu condemned the attack in which an Orthodox Jew was shot dead and another seriously wounded while they were bathing nude as part of a religious cleansing ritual in a spring west of Jerusalem.

Israeli police said the attackers were two Palestinians who fled to the West Bank in the victims' car.

"This is a criminal act which proves that terrorism acts indiscriminately, and that its single goal is to murder Israelis and Jews — simply because they are Israelis and Jews," Netanyahu said.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon will arrive in Amman early today to meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh and senior officials, the Royal Court announced late Tuesday. Government sources said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat had asked Jordan to intervene on behalf of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) with the Israeli leadership ahead of the Wye Plantation Summit scheduled for Oct. 15 near the U.S. state of Maryland.

The U.S. summit will bring Arafat, Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton together to try to arrive at an agreement on Washington's proposals for a three-phased Israeli handover of a further 13 per cent of the West Bank. Arafat was in Amman Monday for talks with the Regent on coordinating stands and efforts between Jordan and the PNA to ensure the success of the summit.

'Jordan is model of religious co-existence'

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Jordan is a country where different faiths peacefully co-exist and cooperate, and the Maronite church is one of nine Jordanian Christian denominations recognised by a 1958 Royal Decree, the government said yesterday.

Information Minister Nasser Judeh pointed out at a regular press briefing that religious freedom, upheld by the Constitution, is a reality in Jordan, a country where "both the call to prayer can be heard five times a day and church bells ring out every Sunday."

The minister's remarks came two days after three Muslim Brotherhood leaders said they were opposed to recent plans to build a Maronite parish in the capital.

"Anybody can express his/her views," Judeh said.

"But if three personalities voice their

own personal views, such a thing does not constitute 'a controversy'," he said referring to a headline in this newspaper on Tuesday.

Former Deputies Ibrahim Zeid Keilani, Mohammad Abu Faris, and Hanmam Sa'id on Oct. 10 sent a letter to the mayor of Amman and all municipality council members urging them "not to surrender [to the Maronite community] the Islamic land with which you were entrusted."

Plans for the establishment of a Maronite parish were reported by the media last week, coinciding with a conference of heads of Catholic churches in the Middle East currently being held in Fuhis, west of Amman.

The call by the three Islamist leaders was not officially backed by either the Muslim Brotherhood or its political arm, the Islamic Action Front.

Dismissing an argument of the three for-

mer deputies that "there are no Maronites in Jordan," Judeh pointed out that "information suggests that there are more than 1,000 Maronites in Jordan."

The Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East, Nasrallah Sfeir, told the Jordan Times in an interview earlier this week that there are around 150 Maronite families in the country. A Maronite priest in Amman, Father George Shihani, placed the size of the Maronite community at around 1,500.

Judeh also stressed the long history of the Jordanian Maronite community, "which ranked sixth in the list of nine churches recognised by a Royal Decree published in the Official Gazette on July 8, 1958."

Judeh stressed that "there is no difference between Jordanians in rights and duties. Under the Hashemite rule, this country has led and is leading inter-faith dialogue to bring the various views closer," he concluded.

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — Parliament could convene briefly in mid-November in accordance with the Constitution, which calls for such a meeting in case the King remains outside the country for more than four months, officials said on Tuesday.

One official, however, pointed out that if such a meeting is warranted, it will be a mere formality, since the spirit of the constitutional article in question, Article 28, is meant to address a hypothetical situation in which the reasons for the Monarch's absence were not known.

"The meeting will be just

a formality as His Majesty King Hussein is currently abroad to receive medical treatment and the reason for his absence is known," the official told the Jordan Times yesterday.

Article 28 (i) of the Constitution reads: "If the King's absence extends for more than four months and the National Assembly is not in session, the assembly shall be summoned immediately to consider the matter."

If held, the meeting is only expected to last for a few hours and will reflect the keenness of all Jordanian institutions to fully implement the spirit and the letter of the Constitution.

However, Information Minister Nasser Judeh on Tuesday stressed that it was still too early to talk about the parliamentary meeting.

"We will cross the bridge when we reach it," Judeh said.

In the case of such a meeting, Parliament would issue a statement wishing His Majesty a speedy recovery and reiterating the people's wish to welcome the King back home safe and sound.

King Hussein, who left for the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, on July 14, has completed the fourth of six rounds of chemotherapy to treat lymphatic cancer.

Doctors as well as officials have said the King is responding perfectly well to the treatment, which is administered in four-day cycles every three weeks.

Al Dustour daily quoted Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Marwan Muasher on Tuesday as saying that the King was expected to return to Amman "in the last week of November after completing the sixth stage of treatment."

"All indications so far are very encouraging," Muasher said, adding that the King is currently convalescing before starting the fifth round of chemotherapy and is in constant touch with developments in Jordan.

Fastlink expects out of court settlement with government

By Alla A. Toukan and Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — Fastlink is optimistic it will reach an out of court settlement with the Ministry of Telecommunications

ahead of an expected court ruling on the mobile company's lawsuit against the government over an alleged breach of contract.

Fastlink Chief Execu-

tive Officer David Bosworth said recent talks held with the new government of Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh were "very encouraging."

"There is a true intent by the Ministry of Telecommunications to resolve the issue before the ruling on the lawsuit," Bosworth told the Jordan Times. The case, filed on December 15, is now before the High Court of

Justice and the court is expected to issue its verdict on October 28.

The government, however, citing that negotiations with the company were still under way, declined to comment.

But according to industry sources, Jordan wants to put the dispute with Fastlink, and its American partner, telecommunications giant Motorola, behind it as it is keen to

fend off accusations that it is not serious about its privatisation programme, and to regain credibility with international investors.

Fastlink and the previous government of former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali had been locked in negotiations since the lawsuit was filed.

Fastlink, which currently has over 60,000 sub-

scribers, had protested against both the timing and the manner in which the government granted the JTC a mobile phone network licence.

The company alleges the government violated the agreement with the firm when it made a decision last October to grant a second mobile service licence to the JTC before the end of Fastlink's November 1, 1998 exclu-

sivity period, and without issuing a tender.

But according to officials, the government plans to issue the second GSM licence after Nov. 1, which should resolve a major point of contention. Bosworth, however, said that none of the conditions set by Fastlink have yet been met by the government. But he said that "as long as the integrity of the licence is

respected" he is sure the dispute will be resolved.

Fastlink insists on retaining certain advantages over the next mobile service provider because of its heavy investment in setting up the company.

But the government says that Fastlink has already gained a head start with its four-year exclusivity period.

As part of a settlement, negotiations between

Fastlink and the government have also included discussions on a possible reduction in interconnect fees, and an increase in frequency allocations. Bosworth said.

Also, Fastlink, which has a 20 per cent revenue sharing agreement with the government, is insisting that the next licensee be subjected to the same conditions.

Arafat asked to speak, school insists on inviting Netanyahu

COLUMBUS (AP) — An Arab student group at Ohio State University withdrew its invitation to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to speak on the campus because the school insisted Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu be invited as well.

Both men are in Washington this week preparing to finalise an agreement on further Israeli troop pullouts in the West Bank.

Malcolm Baroway, the school's chief spokesman, said Monday the conditions were made in the interest of

balance.

"This was a unique situation that developed with two world leaders in the country at the same time," Baroway said.

Ohio State's Arab Student Association, however, said the decision showed a double standard.

"This was to be a historical event of international proportions," said Jad A. Humeidan, president of the group.

"This attempt at reaching a balance seems to be only applicable when the speaker is a Palestinian figure," he said the students in his group were

not opposed to an invitation going to the Israeli prime minister. "I'd love to hear him speak," Humeidan said. "I have a few questions for him myself."

"But I'm opposed to that being made a condition of Arafat's invitation."

Nasser Kidwa, permanent observer of Palestine to the United Nations, told The Columbus Dispatch on Monday that his office had been prepared to recommend to Arafat that he accept the invitation from Ohio State.

"Normally, our recommen-

dations are not taken lightly," Kidwa said.

Arafat's New York office would require a letter from the university indicating its support for the appearance.

Baroway said the university was prepared to send a pair of invitations: one to Arafat on behalf of the Arab student group, the International Law Society and the Muslim Student Association, and the other to Netanyahu on behalf of the Hillel Foundation and the Columbus Schottenstein Chabad House, both Jewish organisations.

Armed guard for Israeli MK threatened by extremists

TEL AVIV (AP) — For the first time ever, the Israeli parliament on Tuesday began providing a bodyguard for one of its members, a left-wing lawmaker who received right-wing threats and had his car torched.

Ran Cohen's car was set on fire after he sponsored a law — which parliament subsequently passed — to remove the grave of slain gunman Baruch Goldstein from a West Bank settlement.

Right-wing admirers have made his grave at the settlement of Kiryat Arba into a shrine and a place of pilgrimage.

Cohen's law obliges the army to remove the body and bury it in a less conspicuous place, but court challenges delayed its implementation.

Cohen, from the leftist Meretz Party, said in the past two years he has received many threats from the extreme right.

Slogans were painted on the walls of his house, leaflets were distributed in the street where he lives and eggs were thrown at him as he addressed public gatherings.

A retired colonel from the paratroopers, Cohen called it "very irksome" that he needed such protection.

Arson adds to forest fires ravaging Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Fires ravaged forests and brushlands in north and central Israel for a third day Tuesday as police hunted for arsonists responsible for setting a number of the blazes.

Around 40 homes were damaged and hundreds of hectares of forest have been destroyed since the first fires broke out early Sunday around the northern port city of Haifa.

No fatalities or serious injuries were reported.

The fires, mostly blamed on careless

Hard-liners, moderates clash as Iran campaign opens

TEHRAN (R) — Hard-liners scuffled with moderate Tehran University students on Tuesday as Iran geared up for a brief but contentious electoral campaign.

Several dozen hardline activists clashed with about 40 students attending a speech by reformist Vice President Abdullah Nouri, witnesses said.

They said Nouri managed to drive away from the scene unhurt but one of his supporters was badly beaten by the hard-liners.

Police, providing security for another rally nearby, did not intervene in the fighting, which took place inside the gates of Tehran University, the witnesses said.

The clash comes just 10 days before nationwide voting to fill

the 86 seats in the Assembly of Experts, which has the power to appoint and dismiss Iran's supreme leader.

The run-up to the Oct. 23 polls has raised tensions between rival factions, with Islamist leftists and moderates grouped around President Mohammad Khatami incensed by what they say are conservatives' moves to bar their candidates.

Under Iran's constitution, all candidates for the assembly must be screened by the Guardian Council, a body of Shiite Muslim clerics and jurists dominated by conservatives. The council has repeatedly denied favouring fellow conservatives.

Press reports said the council

had struck all but 20 leftists from the final list of 154 candidates. In protest, Iran's leading leftist clerical grouping has declined to field a slate of its own but stopped short of an outright boycott.

Several leading religious figures from the reformist camp, most prominently Ayatollah Jalal Eddin Taberi of Isfahan, have withdrawn their candidacy in protest at the council's ruling.

Taberi is the only big-city Friday prayer leader to support president Khatami's reforms.

The pro-Khatami Salam newspaper said on Tuesday that Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, once in charge of meeting out revolutionary justice, had also quit the race in protest.

Israeli attorney general demands official be punished for leaks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's attorney general has demanded that a deputy minister be barred from sensitive security meetings because he leaked classified information concerning the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, officials said Tuesday.

Attorney General Eliyahu Rubinstein wrote last week to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asking that Deputy Minister Michael Eitan be kept

out of future meetings of the ministerial committee on security, he said.

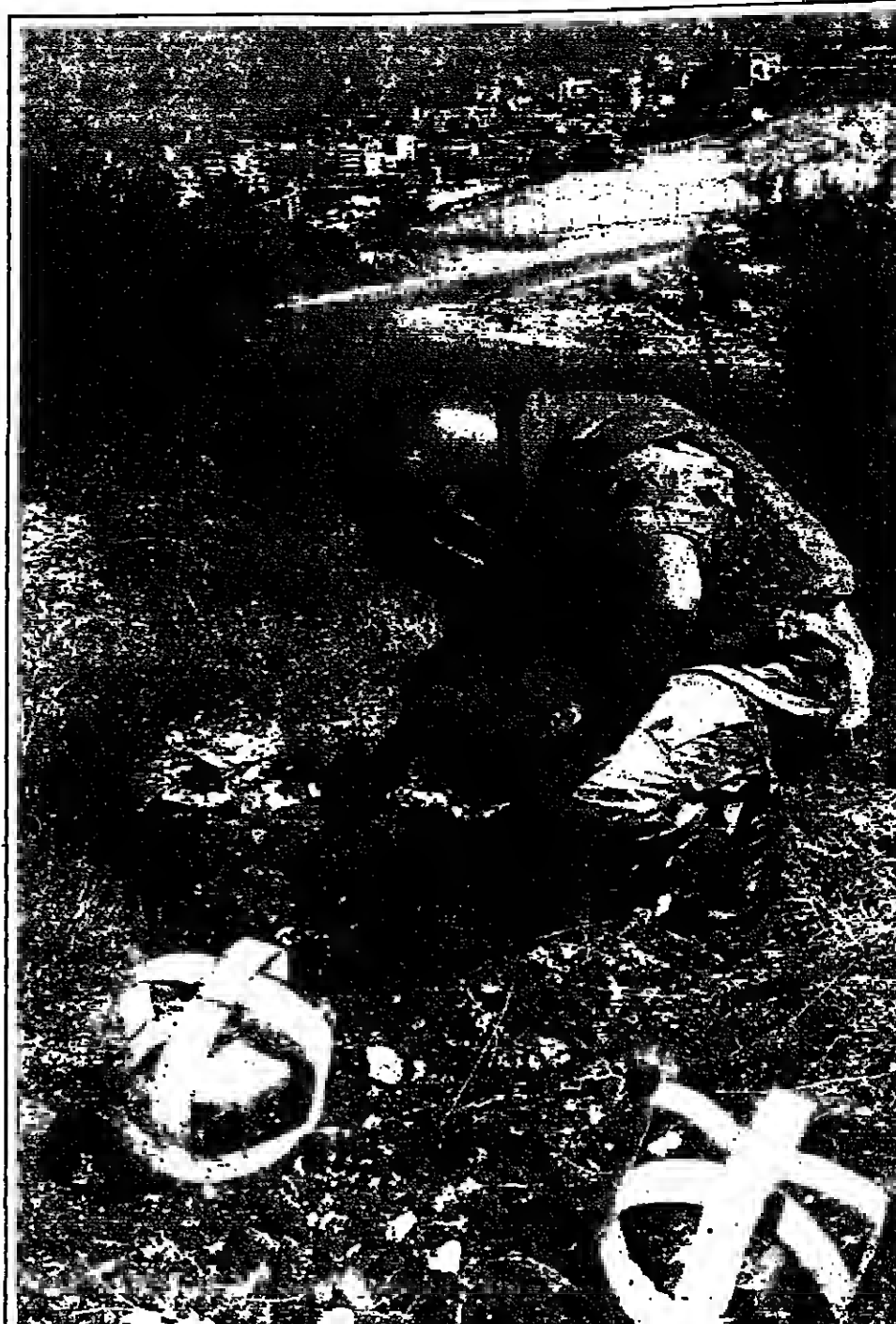
Rubinstein said Eitan broke the law when he leaked minutes from a ministerial discussion of the activities of a secret service informer linked to Rabin's assassin.

"There must be a price to pay for irresponsibility, otherwise there is no knowing where we might end up," Rubinstein said in the letter, a copy of which was

made available to the press.

"A public official has legitimate ways to express his opinion, but leaking secret minutes is not one of them," Rubinstein wrote.

Eitan, who holds no portfolio, used the leaked minutes to accuse his government of hiding facts about the role of Avishai Raviv, a far-right activist who worked as an informer for the Shin Bet secret service, in the Rabin assassination.



LEBANESE SOLDIER IN DEMINING OPERATION: A Lebanese soldier clears up a minefield Tuesday on the former Sunk Al Gharb battlefield in Mount Lebanon. Eight years after the end of the civil war, the army is still engaged in the task of clearing suspected minefields in various former warzones. Efforts to clear minefields are still short of giving quick results as the Lebanese army, which solely handles clearing mines, lacks precise maps and still depends on traditional methods (Reuters photo)

'Rebels cut four people's throats in Algeria'

ALGIERS (R) — Suspected rebels slit the throats of four people in western Algeria as troops intensified a three-day-long offensive against an important Islamist stronghold, local newspapers reported on Tuesday.

Le Quotidien d'Oran daily did not say who committed the attack on Sunday at a fake roadblock near Redjem Demouche village in Sidi Bel Abbes province, 340 kilometres west of Algiers.

However the government and local media have blamed similar attacks on Islamists engaged in a six-year-old brutal struggle with the army-led authorities.

El Watan newspaper said troops, backed by helicopter gunships and bulldozers, blasted a base belonging to Algeria's most radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA) at Sidi Ali Bouabou forest in Tizi Ouzou region, 90 kilometres east of Algiers, for a third day on Monday.

Six more helicopters joined in the onslaught to bring the number of gunships to 15 in making several sorties from Algeria's main Reghaia air base, near Algiers and strafing the rebels' hideout, it said.

"Army bulldozers knocked down trees to clear the way for troops into the thick forest to try and flush out GIA members," El Watan added.

Pressure in Morocco for more details on human rights abuses

RABAT (AFP) — Official confirmation in Morocco of the deaths of 56 government opponents who "disappeared" over a 20-year period led to demands Tuesday for details on their deaths and who were responsible for them.

Newspapers said that relatives of the dead and the public needed to know more about the killings, revealed Monday by a royal commission on human rights.

Without further revelations the commission would fail to create a new climate of openness on rights issues in Morocco, they warned.

The commission confirmed Monday that out of 112 cases of disappearances between 1960 and 1980, 56 people were dead.

It also officially announced the release of 28 political prisoners, mostly Islamists.

Morocco's Justice Minister Omar Azziman stressed Tuesday that the country was committed to progress on human rights issues. In a speech in Madrid he said rights in Morocco had "left the world of shadows."

"Forgetting is not possible. The rest is to debate," said headlines in the weekly Le Journal.

It added that "nowhere in the world had the act of forgetting allowed society a true reconciliation."

The weekly, whose increasing boldness has indicated a new spirit of openness in Morocco, laid out a set of conditions needed to be met if the country was to progress from the "dark years."

It called for an official statement with details of the rights violations and the names and positions of those responsible.

In addition, the government should make an offer of reconciliation to the Moroccan people and issue an "official recognition of the wrongs committed by the state which, if not organised, at the very least allowed these violations to occur."

The brother of a trade unionist who was among the "disappeared" told Le Journal that many Moroccans were "still living in fear of authority."

The official human rights committee announced the appointment Tuesday of a follow-up committee to review existing cases over the next six months.

Socialist Prime Minister

Abdul Rahim Yousufi demanded the creation of the commission in February as a condition of accepting to lead an interim government.

King Hassan II gave his approval to the publication of the figures, which the commission gave him last month.

The president of the commission, Driss Dahbak, said Monday that among the 112 cases of disappearances between 1960 and 1980, 56 people, including one Lebanese, were dead but did not disclose the identities of the victims.

Earlier this month, seven families of opponents of the government who "disappeared" said they were convinced that some of them were still alive in prison.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 "The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin"

15:30 Children's Programme — Halfway to Cross the Galaxy and Turn Left

16:00 French Documentary

16:30 Master of the Maze

17:00 Doc. — Ushuaia

18:15 Wind at My Back (Ep.8)

19:00 Le Journal

19:15 Science Magazine — E-M6

19:30 News Headlines

19:35 Comedy — Keeping Mum

20:00 Doc. — Envoy Special Magazine

21:10 Great Moments of Science and Technology

21:30 Faces and Places

20:30 Kung Fu

22:00 News in English

22:30 Chicago Hope (Ep.13)

23:59 Drama — Bugs

01:00 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:17 Fajr

05:34 (Sunrise) Dhuha

11:22 Dhuhr

14:37 'Asr

17:10 Maghreb

18:27 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366

Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifeh Tel. 5920146

The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331

The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the

Department of Meteorology

It will be hot with temperatures above average by about five degrees centigrade, clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot and dusty, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 18/33

Aqaba 24/40

Deserts 16/33

Jordan Valley 25/39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 41 Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun 28

Jerash 34

Um Qays 33

Madaba 34

Petra 34

Dead Sea 40

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Khalil Al Tushuq 4757253

Dr. Bahjat Bader 532642

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim 5350432

Dr. Wafiq Qadumi 4893547

Firas pharmacy 5661912

Al Asana pharmacy 4637055

Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

Yacoub pharmacy 4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 4623672

Najib pharmacy 5347632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh 250080

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Nabhan 3851743

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 4637111

Civil Defence Department 5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade 4617101

Blood Bank 4775121

Highway Police 5343402

Traffic Police 4896390

Public Security Dept. 4630321

Hotel Complaints 5661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467

Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101

Jordan Television 4773111

Radio Jordan 4774111

Water Authority 5680100

J. Electricity Authority 5815615

Electric Power Co. 4636381

RJ Flight Information 44-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199

The Islamic, Abdli 56661317

Husseini Medical Centre Tel. 5856856

Luzmila 4630195

Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6

Akileh Maternity 4642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362

Malhas, J. Amman 4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071

Shmeisani Hospital 5669131

University Hospital 5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279

Al-Ahli, Abdali 56641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3

Al-Bashir 4775111/26

Army, Marka 4891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50

Amal Hospital 5674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990999

IRRM-

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (52700) or 44(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:30 Damascus (RJ)

08:30 Jeddah (RJ)

08:45 Larnaca (RJ)

08:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

14:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

16:30 Madrid (RJ)

17:05 Istanbul (RJ)

17:05 Paris (RJ)

17:40 Brussels, Geneva (RT)

18:05 Rome (RJ)

18:10 London, Vienna (RJ)

18:25 Frankfurt, Berlin (RJ)

23:15 Beirut (RJ)

00:05 Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights

10:00 Sanaa, Hudaidah (TV)

10:30 Kuwait (KU)

11:30 Jeddah (SV)

12:15 Cairo (MS)

13:10 Tunis (TU)

14:05 Vienna (OS)

15:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (EK)

15:30 Algiers (AH)

17:30 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)

18:05 Beirut (ME)

18:05 Frankfurt (LH)

22:20 Istanbul (TK)

22:40 Amsterdam (KL)

23:15 London (BA)

01:25 Athens, Beirut (OA)

04:15 Antalya (TK)

Royal Wings (RW)

09:20 Amman (QAIA) (Then proceeds to Marka Airport) (RW)

17:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)

18:20 Tel Aviv (QAIA) (RW)

22:50 Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

05:30 Larnaca (RJ)

08:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

09:40 Rome (RT)

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:45 Istanbul (RJ)

12:25 London (RJ)

19:10 Colombo (RJ)

19:35 Beirut (RJ)

20:00 New Delhi (RJ)

20:05 Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)

20:10 Cairo (RJ)

20:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

20:15 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

20:20 Bombay (RJ)

21:05 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

01:45 Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights

05:35 Larnaca (CY)

06:30 Paris (AF)

08:20 London (BA)

10:30 Ta'iz, Sanaa (TV)

11:45 Kuwait (KU)

13:00 Jeddah (SV)

13:15 Cairo (MS)

14:00 Bahrain, Muscat (GF)

14:10 Tunis (TU)

14:50 Vienna (OS)

16:20 Sharjah (AH)

16:20 Dubai (EK)

19:00 Beirut (ME)

19:30 Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)

22:55 Beirut (ME)

23:40 Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)

02:45 Beirut, Athens (OA)

Royal Wings (RW)

07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)

08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)

16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW)

21:50 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

SPD names east German to head new parliament

BONN (AFP) — Germany's future governing Social Democrats (SPD) Tuesday named the east German Wolfgang Thierse as their choice for speaker of the new parliament that is to begin sitting later this month.

Thierse, 54, would be the first east German to preside over the lower house of parliament, the Bundestag. He was chosen against the candidacy of a woman, Christel Hanewinkel, but the SPD parliamentary faction leadership chose Anke Fuchs, 61, to be its nominee for vice-speaker.

The SPD was the strongest party to emerge from legislative elections Sept. 27 that defeated the conservative government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The new Bundestag is to meet Oct. 26 and on Oct. 27 to elect SPD chancellor candidate Gerhard Schröder as the new government leader.

Meanwhile, the outgoing SPD parliamentary faction leader Rudolf Scharping said Tuesday that the group's leadership would announce Thursday its choice for the new parliamentary whip, and that this would be confirmed by the whole group next Tuesday.

The choice had originally been scheduled for this Tuesday but was postponed because of power struggles within the party, SPD sources said.

The SPD is fighting to remain on-track to forming a ruling coalition despite its internal squabbling.

Schröder had said Monday that Scharping would be the new defence minister and that Party President Oskar Lafontaine would be finance minister.

In announcing the choice of Scharping at defence, Schröder clearly tried to still squabbling, as Scharping had said he wanted to stay on as leader of the SPD parliamentary group, a more independent political power base.

Peter Struck, a close aide to Scharping in parliament, has been mooted to take over his job.

Dispute over the parliamentary post, and jockeying by Lafontaine to make the finance job into a super-ministry, show that the Schröder-Lafontaine tandem that campaigned successfully to topple conservative Chancellor Helmut Kohl in legislative elections Sept. 27 may turn again to rivalry, observers said.

The Bonn newspaper General Anzeiger commented in an editorial Tuesday: "What a false start. Within a few days the month-long harmony in the party leadership, done for the campaign and effective, is revealed to be what it was from the start, theatre and show."

The Frankfurter Allgemeine newspaper said

that at least Scharping had apparently stopped Lafontaine from getting for himself or controlling the parliamentary post.

Lafontaine will have a powerful post in the finance ministry, which will include control over the economic aspects of European policy, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper reported Tuesday citing SPD sources.

The ministry will also have the macro-economic functions of analysis and prediction which have previously been the domain of the economics ministry, the daily said, citing SPD documents.

These changes will make the German finance ministry about the same in extent as the French and British finance ministries, and signal the weight Lafontaine will wield in the new German administration.

Meanwhile, the ecologist and pacifist Greens, the party with which the SPD is negotiating a coalition, were due Tuesday to convene their parliamentary group to decide their position on a NATO intervention against Serbia over Kosovo.

The Bundestag has been convened for a special meeting Friday on the question.



Social Democratic Chancellor-elect Gerhard Schröder (right) gestures as he talks to designated Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine (left) as designated Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine looks on prior to a meeting of the party's parliamentary group in Bonn. The party's parliamentary manager Peter Struck will succeed Scharping as parliamentary floor leader (Reuters photo)

OSCE faces unprecedented mission in Kosovo

VIENNA (AFP) — The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) faces a task of unprecedented scale in mounting a 2,000-strong "verification mission" agreed by Belgrade to defuse the Kosovo crisis.

The mission, agreed after marathon talks between U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke and President Slobodan Milosevic, will constitute "a change of gear" for the pan-European security body, whose biggest mission to date involved fewer than 300 observers, officials said.

It will also mark the OSCE's return to Yugoslavia six years after Belgrade was suspended as a member of the Vienna-based body over its implication in the Bosnian war.

"The OSCE will enter new territory and totally change gear," said a Western diplomat familiar with the organisation's activities.

Holbrooke himself stressed the scale of the mission when he announced the deal struck with Milosevic at a Belgrade press conference Tuesday. The ground verification force will be complemented by an airborne monitoring operation.

The OSCE's current biggest missions are in

Croatia and Bosnia, where it has 280 and 240 staff respectively, the Western diplomat noted. "And the Kosovo figure does not take into account technical and logistical staff," he added.

Officially the OSCE declined to comment immediately on the logistics of the operation. "We will have more information later in the afternoon," said OSCE spokesman Mans Nyberg.

"I can't tell you anything more than has been reported ... we need to sort out this information before we can give a coherent structure to the thing," he added.

The diplomat said that the first step, once the accord had been formally signed, would be to the OSCE's 55-member states for contributions to the verification mission.

"As far as I understand, this will be done with some urgency," he said.

The OSCE's founding charter states that it is the "primary instrument in its region for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in Europe."

The Kosovo mission will mark its first operation in Yugoslavia since 1992, when Belgrade was suspended from the OSCE for

violating its charter by backing Bosnian Serbs in the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Federal Yugoslav Republic (FRY) struck back the following year by refusing to extend the mandates of three OSCE missions on its territory: in Kosovo, as well as in the southern Muslim-majority Sandzak region and the Vojvodina region in northern Serbia inhabited by ethnic Hungarians.

Relations between Belgrade and the pan-European security body have been at best difficult ever since.

For example ex-Spanish Premier Felipe Gonzalez, appointed by the OSCE in March to mediate on the Kosovo crisis, has been blocked from travelling to the region despite having visited Belgrade in 1996 and 1997.

Yugoslav authorities have repeatedly insisted that he can only visit if his trip concerns "normalising relations" — that is, readmitting Belgrade to the OSCE.

The OSCE's current chairman, Polish Foreign Minister Bronislaw Geremek, rejected an invitation by Belgrade last week to send a mission "to objectively view the situation," saying it was part of a "propaganda game."

Taliban ignore calls for peace as autumn offensive enters 4th day

KABUL (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taliban militia Tuesday ignored international pleas for peace and pounded enemy strongholds held by arch-rival Ahmad Shah Masood on the eve of a meeting with a U.N. special envoy.

Independent sources said heavy artillery barrages were traded on three frontlines and fighting was "relentless" at Tagab, 70 kilometres north-east of here.

In Kabul, two heavy rockets slammed into the capital while outside the former Cuban embassy a truck laden with explosives detonated and destroyed an armoured personnel carrier.

And the day's bloodshed was capped by a Taliban warning to residents living in forward positions of Hussein Kot, about 30 kilometres north of here, to accept militia rule or watch their sons be killed and their villages destroyed in upcoming fighting.

The Taliban's pre-winter offensive entered day four on the eve of talks between U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and Taliban supreme leader Mulla Mohammad Omar in the southern capital of Kandahar.

A joint statement released simultaneously by Russia and Uzbekistan urged the warring parties to cease fire and begin constructive talks, which would include a halt of arms sales to both sides.

President Boris Yeltsin and

his Uzbek counterpart Islam Karimov added that "open defiance by the Taliban of U.N. resolutions calling for peace was the main cause for the fighting."

Current fighting has been restricted to three fronts: outside of Tagab, north of the Salang tunnel — which links Kabul with northern Afghanistan — and in the adjacent Ghorband Valley.

The three frontlines flank Masood and his troops to the northwest, north and south of his base in Parwan Province.

A fourth front was expected to open from Hussein Kot where the militia warned fighting would escalate if the people of Shamali Plains fail to bow to Taliban demands.

The Shamali Plains begin about 25 kilometres north of Kabul, cover Hussein Kot and stretch-out another 75 kilometres to the mouth of the Panjshir Valley, home to Masood.

A fourth line would link the Taliban between Tagab and Ghorband and encircle Masood who remains the last real force from the anti-Taliban alliance capable of thwarting militia plans of taking total control of Afghanistan.

"Feel mercy upon your families and children ... don't allow them to use your farms and gardens as trenches to fight against your brothers," Taliban authorities told the people of Shamali in an official Radio Shariat broadcast.

At Hussein Kot, Taliban lines were quiet Tuesday but sources said fighting "seems relentless at Tagab and, we expect an attack to be launched on Masood's airbase at Bagram."

In the Afghan capital, residents said heavy rockets, one which struck Kabul airport was fired from Masood-held hillsides in the north and was possibly aimed at striking Taliban warplanes.

Masood has claimed Taliban fighter pilots in this offensive have bombed civilian populations with cluster bombs, killing many, including 10 people from the same family.

Air traffic at the airport was hectic overnight with observers saying the Taliban were ferrying arms and supplies for the autumn offensive.

No casualties were reported from the rocket attack or from the truck which exploded outside the compound of the former Cuban embassy.

It was not known whether the explosion outside the former embassy was an accident or a deliberate act of sabotage.

Masood ally in New Delhi, former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, has said through his envoy that Taliban attacks are being repelled with hundreds of the religious troops killed or taken prisoner.

Taliban authorities have declined to comment.

Death penalty is a colonial legacy, says Sierra Leone minister

FREETOWN (AFP) — Sierra Leone's death penalty is a legacy of the country's British colonial past, Justice Minister Solomon Berewa said after a military court Monday condemned 34 soldiers to die for treason.

"Exactly 100 years ago this year, the colonial masters in 1898 executed 96 people for refusing to pay the hut tax of 26 pence. ... so the capital sentence is not new to Sierra Leone. It is part of our history and a legacy from colonialism," Berewa told a press conference

late Monday.

The 34 were sentenced to death by firing squad after a military court found them guilty of treason for collaborating with the junta ousted from Freetown in February. Military courts offer no recourse to appeal in Sierra Leone.

Berewa said a date had not yet been set for the executions, but indicated that they would not take place soon.

The human rights organisation Amnesty International Monday urged President Ahmad Tejan

Kabbah to show "clemency" to the condemned 33 men and one woman.

When 16 civilians including five journalists accused of collaborating with the junta were sentenced to death by hanging in August, the international community reacted with indignation, particularly the former colonial power Britain.

Their verdict is on appeal. Sierra Leonean Information Minister Julius Spencer said at the press conference that "the offences in question constitute the most serious crimes known to our law."

Some Serbs praise peace deal, others feel betrayed

BELGRADE (R) — Some Serbs praised a deal announced Tuesday to end conflict in Kosovo, saying Yugoslavia had no choice, but others denounced Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic for selling out his country.

"If we were a country with political, economic and military might and if we could defeat the world, then I would be the first one to take the gun and fight for my country," said Sinisa Bencun, an economist.

"But Yugoslavia is not strong enough. What can we do with a rifle against Tomahawks (cruise missiles)? That is why I say: peace at any price," Bencun, 28, told Reuters while he bought tickets for a cinema at a Belgrade mall.

Bojac, also 28 and a maintenance worker in the mall, said: "We do not need any foreign observers nor planes in our sky."

"I do not understand his (Milosevic's) decision. It is against the will of his people. Practically, he has betrayed all of us who said no to any foreign interference," Bojac

said. Milosevic, in a nationally televised speech, said the agreement with the West, brokered after intensive talks with U.S. Balkan envoy Richard Holbrooke, "removed the danger of military intervention against our country."

The deal calls for an international team on the ground in Kosovo, where Serbs have cracked down on an ethnic Albanian revolt for independence, to verify compliance with a U.N. demand for a Serbian military withdrawal. NATO planes would be used for verification purposes from the sky.

Zlatko Letonja, a retired veterinarian, said he had not heard about the details of the agreement but said he could not believe Milosevic accepted it.

"Despite so many victims and promises that he would not allow any foreign interference, Milosevic accepts such a deal?" Letonja said.

"He has, as always, betrayed his own people," he said. Milan Krstolica, manager of a clothes shop and an avowed Serbian

nationalist, said Milosevic should not have bowed to the West's demands.

"This is a shameful deal and concession — just like the Dayton peace agreement," he said, referring to the deal, also brokered by Holbrooke, to end the Bosnian war.

"Milosevic has once again sold his people for his own interests just like he did with Krajina Serbs (from Croatia) and Serbs in Bosnia," Krstolica said.

Bobana, 26, a doctor, said: "Milosevic has made many mistakes over the past 10 years and I do not like him. But I live near the airport, and I would rather destroy it myself than to be bombed."

Tanja, salesperson at a sportswear shop, said: "I do not believe this will make Albanians happy. I think it will only postpone the war."

The insurgent Kosovo Liberation Army, which fought Serbian forces in the province, rejected the Kosovo agreement saying it was unacceptable because it did not provide for the southern Serbian province's independence.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Newly elected Bosnian leaders inaugurated

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The three members of Bosnia-Herzegovina's joint national presidency were sworn in Tuesday, promising to respect the 1995 agreement which ended the Bosnian war. The three — representing the Muslim, Serb and Croat communities — were elected in the Sept. 12-13 nationwide balloting. "What we have just witnessed together ... is the birth of a new chapter in the story of this young country," said Jacques Klein, the American deputy to the Bosnia's top international mediator, Carlos Westendorp. The Bosnian Serb and Croat members, Zivko Radisic and Anze Jelavic, are serving for the first time in the joint presidency. The Muslim member, Alija Izetbegovic, was reelected. Radisic, who defeated the Serb hard-line candidate Momcilo Krajisnik, will serve as chairman for the first eight months of the four-year mandate. Local and Western officials believe Radisic's membership will signal a new era of cooperation. Krajisnik was considered one of the biggest obstacles to Serb cooperation in implementing the 1995 peace accords. For the first time since the beginning of the war in 1992, the inaugural ceremony took place in the main Bosnian government building, which was heavily damaged during the war but reconstructed recently. Meetings of the previous joint presidency were held in Sarajevo's National Museum at Krajisnik's insistence.

French student protesters back on streets

PARIS (AFP) — Tens of thousands of angry secondary school students walked out of class Tuesday to protest in cities across France for the second day running, demanding more teachers and better schooling. "We need reforms urgently," said Alice Martin of the independent students' association FIDL. "We have had nothing but promises that have never been kept." Students were calling a major countrywide day of action Thursday with the focus, a march in Paris, Martin told Europe 1 radio. In Bordeaux, 15,000 pupils left school to demonstrate, more than the previous day when 10,000 students massed in the city protesting against poor learning conditions. Some 5,000 joined a similar protest in Toulouse, 4,000 in southeastern Lyon, and 1,000 marched in cities such as Paris, Metz, Mulhouse, Niort, Montauban and Clermont-Ferrand. The wave of student protest has been building for the past two weeks on the heels of the beginning of the school year, with youngsters complaining of returning to school to find overcrowded classrooms, a shortage of teachers and poor conditions. Education Minister Claude Allègre, moving to quell the growing protests, Monday pledged to hire new teachers to plug gaps but said: "I'm not a magician. I can't provide everything at once."

S. Lanka says 11 rebels, soldier killed in clash

COLOMBO (R) — Government troops repulsed a Tamil Tiger rebel attack on an army detachment in northeastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 11 guerrillas but losing one soldier, the defence ministry said Tuesday. It said in a statement that in a subsequent search the bodies of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels were recovered by troops along with several weapons after the attack at Sirmangalapuram village in Trincomalee district Monday. "One soldier was wounded due to the incident and evacuated to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries," the statement said. The latest clash followed fierce fighting in the north last month in which hundreds of soldiers and rebels were killed. Government troops are in the midst of a 17-month-old campaign to wrest control of a key northern highway from the rebels. The LTTE rebels have been fighting for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka's north and east since 1983, accusing the Sinhalese majority of oppressing the Tamil minority.

Japan's crime rate hits record high in 1997

TOKYO (AFP) — The number of reported crimes in Japan hit a post-war record of 2.52 million in 1997, up 53,000 from the previous year, with an upsurge in offences committed by women and juveniles, the government said Tuesday. The number of women arrested in criminal cases rose 16 per cent from the previous year to some 70,400, according to a white paper released by the justice ministry. It did not provide a breakdown by offence. They accounted for 22.4 per cent of all the arrests made in 1997, a record high ratio since World War II, the report said. The number of juveniles, or those aged under 20, who were arrested in 1997, totalled some 215,600, up 9.8 per cent from 1996. It represented the second year-on-year rise. The report was accompanied by a survey which showed more than 40 per cent of the juveniles detained for committing serious crimes such as murder or attempted murder, had been bullied by someone else. The survey showed some alienated minors could take to violent crimes such as murder, the Kyodo news agency said citing specialists. Among the juveniles the number of those who were arrested for murder fell 22.7 per cent to 75. But the number of those arrested for robberies jumped 60 per cent to 1,701 while 409 others were held for rape up 80.2 per cent. Following an upturn in juvenile crimes in 1996 after a 12-year downturn, the justice ministry has been preparing a bill to lower the age limit for criminal punishment for juveniles. Under the present law, those under 16 years of age are not considered capable of forming the necessary criminal intent and their offences are dealt with by special family courts. Juveniles 16 years or older who commit an offence can be tried in a criminal court. But pressure to abolish lenient treatment of juvenile offenders has mounted since early last year after a 14-year-old boy was arrested for killing two children in Kobe, western Japan, beheading one of the victims.

Infant's corpse hidden in closet by mother

MIAMI (AP) — A panicked mother hid her dead baby in a closet for several days because she feared her own mother's reaction to the death, police said. Detectives and doctors still haven't determined how 7-month-old Katie Taylor died. But officers said her mother, Annalisa Taylor, 30, didn't notify authorities for at least a week. "She feared her mother more than law enforcement," Detective Patrick Brickman said. Taylor's mother, Diane Lessa, finally discovered the death when she asked Taylor where the baby was. Taylor said the child was in the hospital but could not say which hospital, police said. "I am not proud of what I did," Taylor said in The Miami Herald Tuesday. "I didn't know what to do." Police found no signs of abuse and have not charged Taylor. Katie was recently diagnosed with bronchitis, and police believe she could have died of natural causes. Police said Taylor changed the dead child's diaper, wrapped the baby in plastic and put her in the closet. "She knew the baby was dead and didn't know what to do," Brickman said. "Most people would call a relative. She didn't because her mother was always on her case." Taylor said her mother often accused her of excessive drinking because of past problems with alcohol. Lessa would not discuss her relationship with her daughter or her granddaughter's death. "They say it might be SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome). I'm not a doctor, I just don't know," Lessa said. "I think the medical examiner's office will come up with its facts and everyone will know what happened."

World
Nobel Ch
lawyers
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ay, October 14, 1998

IN BRIEF

Bosnian leaders

govina (AP) — The three men are to respect the 1995 Dayton accords. The three — representing the Bosnian Serb, Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat communities — were elected to the post of joint national president. The three — representing the Bosnian Serb, Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat communities — were elected to the post of joint national president. The three — representing the Bosnian Serb, Bosnian Muslim and Bosnian Croat communities — were elected to the post of joint national president.

ident protesters

on streets

ousands of angry secondary school students are protesting in the streets of Paris on Tuesday, demanding more radical reforms. The students, who are protesting in the streets of Paris on Tuesday, demanding more radical reforms. The students, who are protesting in the streets of Paris on Tuesday, demanding more radical reforms.

s 11 rebels, soldier

d in clash

mentary troops repulsed a Tamil separatist force in northeastern India, but a soldier was killed in a clash. The separatist force, which was attacking a government camp, was repulsed by Indian troops. A soldier was killed in the clash.

n's crime rate

ord high in 1997

number of reported crimes in last year was the highest since 1994, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Justice. The report, which was released on Tuesday, shows that the crime rate in the United States was at its highest since 1994.

ant's corpse

n closet by mother

shed to her mother's closet. The mother, who was found dead in her closet, was the daughter of a prominent businessman. The case has caused a sensation in the city.



The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announces that the winners of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for 1998 are Austrian-born scientist Walter Kohn and Britain's John Pople (right). The two receive the prize for their work in pioneering methods that can be used for theoretical studies of the properties of molecules and the chemical processes in which they are involved, the academy said (Reuters photo)

Nobel Chemistry Prize goes to Briton and American

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Britain's John Pople and American Walter Kohn won the Nobel Chemistry Prize Tuesday for their work on how bonds between the atoms in molecules function. The laureates have each made pioneering contributions in developing methods that can be used for theoretical studies of the properties of molecules and the chemical processes in which they are involved, the Nobel jury said. Their work was key to "an enormous theoretical and computational development and the consequences are revolutionising the whole of chemistry," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which adjudged the prize, said. Pople, 73, and Kohn, 75, will be presented with a medal and a shared cheque for 7.6 million Swedish kronor (\$938,000) at an official ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, the 102nd anniversary of the death of the creator of the prizes, Swedish inventor and industrialist Alfred Nobel. Pople works in the department of chemistry at Northwestern University, Illinois, and Kohn in the department of physics at the University of California at Santa Barbara, California. It is the 90th time that the Nobel Chemistry Prize has been awarded. The United States has provided most laureates with 45 followed by Germany (27), Britain (25), France (7) and Switzerland (5). The work Pople and Kohn were involved in can be traced back to the growth of quantum mechanics in physics at the turn of the century, the Nobel jury said. This opened many new possibilities, but its applications within chemistry were long in coming. "It was not practically possible to handle the complicated mathematical relations of quantum mechanics for such complex systems as molecules," the jury said. The arrival of computers at the beginning of the 1960s changed all this as they could solve the complex equations "and quantum chemistry (the application of quantum mechanics to chemical problems) emerged as a new branch of chemistry," it added. Kohn and Pople emerged as the two most prominent figures of this new branch of chemistry. "W. Kohn's theoretical work has formed the basis for simplifying the mathematics in descriptions of the bonding of atoms, a prerequisite for many of today's calculations," the academy said. "J. Pople developed the entire quantum-chemical methodology now used in various branches of chemistry," it added. Last year the chemistry prize went jointly to American Paul Boyer, Briton John Walker and Dane Jens Skou for helping to unlock the mystery of how energy is transferred between living cells. The chemistry prize was the fourth of the six Nobel prizes to be awarded this year and was adjudged by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. Portuguese author Jose Saramago won the Nobel Literature Prize last Thursday and American researchers Robert Furchgott, Louis Ignarro and Ferid Murad won the medicine prize Monday.

Three scientists working in the U.S. get physics Nobel

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Three U.S.-based physicists won the Nobel Prize Tuesday for discovering how electrons can change their behaviour, work that could lead to further advances in microelectronics. Robert B. Laughlin of the United States, Horst L. Störmer of Germany and Daniel C. Tsui, a native of China who is now an American citizen, will share the \$978,000 prize. They discovered that ordinary electrons acting together in strong magnetic fields and very low temperatures can condense into new types of composite subatomic particles that function as a fluid, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said. Subsequently, other researchers confirmed their experiments and directly observed these new composites, known as quasiparticles. Laughlin works at Stanford University. Störmer currently is at Columbia University and Tsui teaches at Princeton University. The award recognises work Tsui and Störmer did together in 1982. Laughlin elaborated on the work the next year. Laughlin, 47, who did his graduate studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, got the news in the middle of the night. "The reason why this is important is that it has to do with why the universe is the way it is," he said Tuesday. "You can chop (the universe) to pieces or learn how all the pieces work together. This is a triumph of the second." According to the citation, the three men discovered a new form of "quantum fluid" — fluids such as liquid helium that have certain properties in common, such as superfluidity. What makes these fluids important for researchers is that they can reveal more about the inner structure and dynamics of matter. It is "yet another breakthrough in our understanding of quantum physics and to the development of new theoretical concepts of significance in many branches of modern physics," the academy said. Mansour Shayanfar, a colleague of Tsui's at Princeton, said all three "have done wonderful work." "They have essentially discovered a new state of condensed matter," he said. Mats Jonson, a physics professor at Sweden's respected Chalmers Institute of Technology, said the laureates' work could be important in the development of smaller electronic components and could lead to improving computer memories by manipulating electrons in this altered state. The development of microelectronics has allowed other researchers to confirm the work's validity in experiments the academy likened to "measuring the sound of individual hailstones during a hailstorm." The trio's work built on experiments performed by German physicist Klaus von Klitzing, who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1985. Tsui, 59, was born in Henan, China, in 1939. He came to the United States in 1958 to attend Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. He received his doctorate in physics from the University of Chicago and was appointed a professor at Princeton in 1982. Störmer received his doctorate in physics from Stuttgart University. He joined Columbia this year after supervising the Physical Research Laboratory at Bell Laboratories since 1992. Last year's physics laureates, Claude Cohen-Tannoudji of France and William Phillips and Steven Chu of the United States, were honoured for developing ways of trapping atoms of gas and cooling them to within a millionth of a degree of absolute zero. The work led to developing extraordinarily accurate atomic clocks. All Nobel prizes are announced in Stockholm, except for the peace prize which is given in Oslo, Norway. The prizes are presented on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the Swedish industrialist and inventor of dynamite who established the prizes in his will.

Indian entrepreneur wins World Food Prize

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S.-based foundation announced Tuesday it had awarded the 1998 World Food Prize to an Indian entrepreneur for helping develop the role of private enterprise in Indian agriculture. The prestigious \$250,000 prize, awarded to B.R. Barwale, was to be formally announced Tuesday. It is awarded yearly by the Iowa-based World Food Prize Foundation to people who improve world food supply. Last year's award went to two American scientists in Texas and California for their work in developing new pest-control programmes. Barwale is founder and chairman of Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company, also known as Mahyco, and was specifically honoured for developing private enterprise in India's agricultural sector, the foundation said. "B.R. Barwale has dedicated his life to improving agricultural productivity in India," said John Ruan, founder of the World Food Prize, in a statement. "His vision to see the private sector take the lead in India's seed industry has literally transformed the country's food production system. His achievements serve as a great example to other developing nations striving to become food self-sufficient." Barwale oversees an operation that produces and markets more than 300 hybrid varieties of rice, wheat, corn, sorghum, pulses, oilseeds and vegetables. "Jalgaon-based Mahyco operates 16 production centres in seven Indian states and companies more than 2,500 dealers, 23 sales offices, and a research and development centre." The World Food Prize was conceived by 1970 Nobel Peace laureate Norman Borlaug and launched in 1986. Previous laureates include: M.S. Swaminathan, architect of India's "Green Revolution" in 1987; He Kang, former Chinese agriculture minister in 1993; and Mohammad Yunus, founder of Bangladesh's Grameen Bank in 1994.

Lawyers contest refusal of bail to Malaysian dissident

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Lawyers for arrested dissident leader Anwar Ibrahim filed an appeal Tuesday challenging a court's refusal of bail, as Malaysia told foreign nations not to interfere with Anwar's forthcoming trial. No date has been fixed for hearing the appeal. A high court judge had refused bail when Anwar, the former deputy prime minister, was arraigned Oct. 5 on 10 counts of corruption and illegal homosexual acts. Anwar, pleaded innocent to all charges. "Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi denounced what he called attempts by foreign nations to interfere in Anwar's trial, which has been set for Nov. 2, newspapers said. "This is one example of interference we cannot accept," Abdullah said in comments to local reporters Monday evening. He was referring to a report that a man claiming to be a U.S. senator had made a phone call last week to Justice Augustine Paul, the high court judge conducting Anwar's trial, the newspaper New Straits Times said. The caller told the judge that justice must be seen to be done, the daily said, and the judge reported the call to police. Such a call is "tantamount to interference as though we do not understand the law and are unable to enforce the law well," Abdullah said. No other details were available about the reported phone call. Malaysia has repeated assurances that Anwar, who challenged Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's 17-year reign, will be given a fair trial. However, a group of British lawyers, representing Justice International, a human rights group, said they will watch the trial to check whether it is fair. "We feel that if there is to be a fair and open trial in the case of Anwar, the presence of observers at the trial is imperative," said Sayyad Mubayeddeen, a London-based lawyer in the group. "We have informed the chief justice and the attorney general of our intention to participate at the forthcoming trial as observers," he said. Anwar, a former heir-apparent to Mahathir, was fired Sept. 2, accused of being morally unfit to lead. The two had differed over economic policy, and Anwar had said Mahathir feared the deputy was a threat to his office. Anwar was arrested on Sept. 20 and brought to a court nine days later, badly bruised and with a black eye. He said police had beaten him until he fell unconscious on his first night of captivity. His lawyers have repeatedly complained that they were being harassed by police and even interrogated about their role as defence attorneys. Until last week, lawyers were denied access to Anwar, who is locked in a cell at Kuala Lumpur's police headquarters. Meanwhile, opposition groups stepped up protests Tuesday denouncing the harsh Internal Security Act, following the arrest Monday of a vocal, anti-government Muslim activist. Mohamed Hatta Shaharom, vice president of the Malaysian Reform Society, said the arrest of the group's president, Shaari Sungib, had only resulted in "firing up" members' spirits and the group would "double their effort in reformative work." The society is an active member in two newly formed anti-government coalitions. Shaari was the 18th person seen as aligned with Anwar to be arrested under the act, which allows jail without trial. All but five, including Anwar, have been released. The Coalition for People's Democracy, one of the two new coalitions, urged Malaysians to wear white ribbons every day to show their longing for justice. "It's small ribbon but it sends a powerful message," said the chairman of the coalition, Tian Chua, about the 7.6-centimetre ribbon with an attached pin. "This shows that the people of Malaysia have not been frightened by the culture of tyranny and oppression imposed by Dr. Mahathir's government," he said, adding that the ribbons would be banded out nationwide. The forces loyal to Kabila had both light and heavy artillery weapons in Kindu, and reconnaissance planes, but the rebels found no fighter-bombers at the airport here when they won control of Kindu Monday evening. Ngizo Siatilo said the loyalist Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) in Kindu were supported by a 1,500-strong battalion of Sudanese government troops and Ugandan rebels who support a son of ousted Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Khartoum continues to deny it has sent troops to support Kabila. On the right bank of the Congo River, which cuts Kindu in two, warehouses have been holed by shells, and the ground is littered with cartridges from AK-47 assault rifles. "This was a battlefield," Ngizo Siatilo said. "The FAC were facing our troops, who were advancing, and had their backs to the river. They resisted, and we really fought." "This was the first time since we launched our revolution (on Aug. 2) that we had encountered real resistance." The insurgents' military chiefs say casualties in the battle for Kindu, launched on Oct. 5, were "high," but maintain they tried to minimise loss of civilian lives by refraining from shelling residential neighbourhoods. A senior military officer in Kinshasa acknowledged Tuesday morning that the loyalist forces had "fallen back in good order" from Kindu. The insurgents, spearheaded by Tutis, launched their rebellion against Kabila in the east of the DRC after propelling him to power in his own 1996-97 revolution against the late Mobutu Sese Seko but then falling out with him, accusing of fomenting tribalism, massacres of Tutsis, and dictatorship. Loyalist forces aided by troops from Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia repulsed a rebel attack on Kinshasa and the Congo River corridor southwest of the capital in August. Chad has since sent a battalion to aid Kabila, who accuses Uganda and Rwanda of sending troops to fight alongside the rebels. Uganda says its troops are battling Ugandan rebels with rear bases in the east of the DRC. Rwanda continues to deny that its troops crossed the border. The insurgents captured at least 400 loyalist soldiers at Kindu who are being housed in the former governor's residence. They also found two 15-year-old girls who said they had been kidnapped by loyalist troops, a rebel officer told AFP. The rebels say the government troops killed the governor and his wife and executed the commander of the Congolese Armed Forces' 226th Brigade for "communicating with the enemy." In Nairobi, meanwhile, the World Vision aid agency said it had started to rescue thousands of Sudanese refugees stranded on the DRC's north-eastern border. Some 500 people, including pregnant women, the elderly and sick refugees were picked up Sunday and taken to the southern Sudanese town of Yambio, it said in a statement. The statement said the refugees had been attacked by Kabila's forces and villagers.

Indian coalition faces new threats

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's ruling coalition was denounced Tuesday by a regional ally for its "dismal performance" since assuming power six months ago. The Haryana Lok Dal (HLD), Haryana Masses Party) said it had supported the Hindu nationalist-led government in the hope that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee would prove a good administrator. But HLD leader Om Prakash Chautala said his party's faith had been misplaced. "People's expectations and aspirations have been belied by the dismal performance of the government," the Press Trust of India quoted him as saying. It was the most strident attack yet on the government by the HLD, which wields considerable influence in the northern state of Haryana although it has only four seats in the 545-member parliament. Vajpayee's multi-party coalition survives with the backing of several small groups, making it a fragile alliance in which minor allies wield great clout. Monday the PMK party, also with four parliament members, threatened to withdraw from the government if Vajpayee bowed to pressure from another coalition partner to replace a cabinet minister. Infighting over the allocation of ministerial portfolios forced Vajpayee unexpectedly to postpone a scheduled cabinet expansion last week. The unending feuds prompted an opposition leader to warn Tuesday of "changes in the national political scenario" following elections for local governments in four states next month. Muthuvel Karunanidhi said in the southern city of Madras that the Hindu nationalist-led coalition had failed to deliver political stability. "Instability is the hallmark of the Vajpayee government," he said. The upcoming elections in New Delhi and three states will be the first popularity test for the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) which heads the coalition. Analysts warn that a BJP defeat could push the main opposition Congress party to try and set up an alternative government with the help of smaller parties. The Congress is the second largest group in parliament after the BJP.

Indonesia murder spree spreads to Central Java

JAKARTA (R) — A series of killings of more than 100 Indonesian Muslim clerics and alleged black magic practitioners has spread to the province of Central Java from neighbouring East Java, local newspapers reported Tuesday. An Islamic teacher, Rachmudi, was strangled and beaten to death by a mob at a mosque in the Central Java town of Demak Sunday, the Republika reported. "The whole town killed Rachmudi because he is a black magician. If you want, you should detain all of us," shouted a woman in front of Demak's police headquarters after three suspects were detained, the newspaper said. The detention of the three angered residents and a crowd of 500 surrounded the headquarters, demanding that the suspects be released, reported Republika. The crowd later dispersed peacefully, it said. Killers dressed in black have gone on a murder spree in recent months in and around the East Java towns of Banyuwangi and Jember. The victims, mostly Muslim clerics or alleged practitioners of black magic, have often been chopped into pieces. The bodies of some of the victims have been tied into bundles and hung from trees, while others have been thrown into mosques. In East Java Monday, two men were killed in the town of Jember and another two in the town of Jombang, newspapers said. The latest killings raise the official death toll to 109. The military has been criticised by residents and religious leaders for being slow to investigate the killings.

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Example of resolve

AS MUCH as it may be commendable that the NATO countries succeeded in forcing Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to accept to comply with the recent U.N. Security Council resolution on Kosovo, the question that rings loudest is why NATO took so long to act. Serb forces have been roaming free in Kosovo for the past few months, killing innocent Albanians without NATO forces so much as lifting a finger against the Serb forces. No one would want to belittle the impact of NATO's threat to use force on the apparent success of the diplomacy undertaken by U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke. Despite his tireless efforts, Holbrooke would not have succeeded in his shuttle diplomacy had NATO not moved its military might within striking distance of Belgrade.

It was obvious right from the start that President Milosevic was not likely to heed to reason without the manifestation of clear-cut military preparedness to use force. Why then wait until his forces commit more crimes before assembling 430 warplanes to hit Serb military bases? It was last week's shocking revelation that innocent ethnic Albanians were butchered that provided the impetus for a real show of force by NATO. Belgrade never thought that NATO countries could ever get their act together against it as indeed was the case for the first few years of the Bosnian conflict. Only when NATO was poised to strike did Belgrade agree to make a deal. That is why we would have hoped that NATO military preparedness that won it much international acclaim had been set into motion sooner than later to avoid the example of Bosnia.

Still, NATO's determination and will deserve the international community's commendation and appreciation. Now, thanks to NATO, and NATO alone, Serb forces will have to withdraw from Kosovo, accept international supervision and yield to the demands of Albanians for greater autonomy. We would also like to see Serb war criminals apprehended and prosecuted in order to give a lesson to all would-be war criminals in the future that no amount of defiance would absolve them from accountability.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek criticised certain Jordanian economists, who think that the country's open market policy has been the cause of an economic depression, saying they "live outside history," and are not aware of the Kingdom's reality: its situation and relations with the world. Those economists, the writer said, should know that Jordan has signed a partnership agreement with the European Union, which would create a free zone between the Kingdom and 15 industrial countries. They should know that Jordan has achieved an advanced stage of negotiations to join the World Trade Organisation that would cancel customer restrictions and allow local markets to trade with the world. Such economists should observe that the country has signed the Arab Trade Organisation convention that would decrease customer charges by 10 per cent per year, said Fanek.

Al Dustour's Jihad Momani said if the government insists on implementing the draft law which punishes ownership of machine guns with the death penalty, the Lower House should study the draft law carefully, because it will affect half of Jordan's population, especially in rural areas and the badia. He agreed that such a law is important, but he asked why the government is trying to issue this precise law at a time when there are many crimes that have been committed by knives and daggers? The writer hoped that the decision would not impose regulations which would infringe on Jordanians' rights on their land. The upcoming law has to move the country to a level where people do not have to use weapons to protect themselves, and Momani urged the government to abolish the tradition of letting of firearms at weddings in order to prepare Jordanians for the 21st century.

Washington Watch

Dr. James J. Zogby

The meanest and dirtiest campaign

NEW YORK State will be the scene of this year's meanest and ugliest Senate race. Republican Senator Al D'Amato, long known for his ruthless campaign tactics, has met his match. This year's Democratic nominee is congressman Charles Schumer, an equally fierce political attacker.

Both candidates have already raised staggering amounts of money. D'Amato has almost \$25 million to his credit, while Schumer has raised almost \$15 million. By election day, November 3rd, they will each raise and spend even more, making this race 1998's most expensive Senate contest. Most of the money will be used to buy negative attack television ads.

Although the real flood of ads will come in the election's final weeks, already New York voters are seeing the direction the campaign will take. The day after winning the Democratic primary, Schumer was subjected to a state-wide blitz of D'Amato attack ads. The Republican Senator's top political strategist is none other than Arthur Finklestein — a strange conservative operative who was one of Benjamin Netanyahu's top advisors during his 1996 campaign. In line with Finklestein's usual tactics, the D'Amato ads attack Schumer as a big government, big spending liberal.

Schumer has responded with attacks of his own calling D'Amato a crass politician "who has lied for too long" and criticising the Senator's opposition to gun control and environmental protection. While both candidates are equally tough campaigners and share a propensity to seek the political limelight in an effort to pander to voters (one Democrat even criticised Schumer saying, "the shortest distance between two points is Charles Schumer and a TV camera"), they are politically quite opposite. Schumer is a liberal with a strong record on gun control, banking reform and environmental protection.

D'Amato is a fiscal conservative who is proud of his record of constituent services. This has earned him the derisive nickname "Senator potato," referring to his commitment to use his office to solve even the smallest of problems facing his constituents. This record has also helped secure D'Amato the endorsement of a number of leading Democratic politicians.

While opponents on most issues, the two candidates largely agree on how they approach Middle East issues. Both D'Amato and Schumer are ardent supporters of the anti-peace Likud government of Israel. This fact has led one prominent New York rabbi to note that whoever wins the elections "the Jewish community can't

lose. It's a win-win situation." Because almost 20 per cent of New York State's voters will be Jewish, including the hard-line Orthodox of New York City, New York politicians take the most pro-Israel positions of any in the United States.

Both D'Amato and Schumer were, for example, strong supporters of the congressional resolution to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, and both historically have opposed U.S. arms sales to Arab countries. Both candidates strongly criticised President Clinton for what they perceived as administration pressure on the Netanyahu government and both criticised Mrs. Clinton's comments favouring a Palestinian State.

In response to the First Lady's May 1998 comments, D'Amato stated, "It is clear the ultimatum issued by the President to Israel, and Hillary Clinton's statements, indicate that the Clinton-Gore administration has chosen to align itself with the Palestinians and Yasser Arafat against the people of Israel." Not to be outdone, Schumer countered, "When voices in the White House say there ought to be a Palestinian state before there are guarantees of security, they do not set the peace process forward." The role of the First Lady became a campaign issue recently when as part of her national tour to support Democratic candidates, she campaigned with Schumer in New York. Her appearance set off a round of protests from some Jewish leaders and from Republicans who sought to exploit the visit to take Jewish support away from Schumer.

Matt Brooks, the director of the National Jewish Coalition, a Republican organisation stated, "This is hypocritical and political prostitution in its basest form. In compromising the ideals he cares about for the sake of political gain, Chuck Schumer is demonstrating why people don't like politicians." D'Amato did not directly enter the fray, but noted that, "No Senator has done more than Al D'Amato to fight Palestinian terrorism or to ensure that Israel alone makes decisions about its security needs." Through a spokesperson, Schumer sought to establish his record by stating that he had long opposed a Palestinian state stating, "How can we have a Palestinian state, when the Palestinian charter still calls for Israel's destruction?" In fact to make his position clear, Schumer has recently written to President Clinton demanding that the administration go on record publicly opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Another issue on which both D'Amato and Schumer agree is their opposition to any rapprochement with Iran. D'Amato has recently adopted the case of the family of Aissa Flatow, an American Jewish woman who was killed in a bombing attack in Gaza. The family has argued that Iran is the sponsor of Hamas that

ordered the attack and is therefore, responsible for damages done as a result of it. They sued Iran in a New York court and won a judgement of \$247.5 million. The court has ordered that Iranian assets in the United States be turned over to the family in compensation for the loss of their daughter, but the Clinton administration has opposed this judgement as a matter of law and policy.

D'Amato has taken the lead in opposing the administration position on the Flatow case. Schumer has joined him in this saying, "The U.S. government should stop blocking the sale of Iranian assets and the Flatow family deserves compensation for their loss." In past campaigns D'Amato has received as much as 40 per cent of the Jewish vote. This is high for any Republican since the majority of American Jews are Democrats who support a liberal social agenda.

Current polls show D'Amato winning only 25 to 33 per cent of the Jewish vote this year, with Schumer, who is Jewish, winning about 70 per cent.

This has caused D'Amato to work even harder and to take even more strident stands to pander for votes. He wears yarmulkes at Jewish events and has made a big campaign issue of his leadership in the fight to secure \$1.25 billion for Swiss banks for Jewish survivors of the Holocaust.

In the face of all of this, it should not be surprising that New York's Arab American voters have shown little interest in this campaign. While there are almost 200,000 Arab Americans in New York, their numbers are less than 10 per cent of the much more substantial and powerful Jewish community. It is interesting to note, however, that with New York out of the picture, in the rest of the United States the number of Arab Americans and American Jews are roughly the same.

In any case, in New York, Arab Americans are alienated from both Schumer and D'Amato. Too often in the past they have felt victimised by the rhetoric and behaviour of both candidates. Therefore, despite their political leanings or party affiliations, the community has shown little interest in supporting either campaign.

One Arab American observer noted that the only good thing he could see in the race was that "when it is over, one of the two will be finished in politics." At this point, the race is quite close. Some polls are showing Schumer ahead by a few points while a few others are showing D'Amato with a slight lead. What this means is that the campaign will remain ugly and expensive and full of crass political pandering.

'A new dialogue with Islam'

Following is a speech by the foreign secretary of the UK, Robin Cook, to the Ismaili Centre, London.

I AM very glad to have the chance to visit the Ismaili Centre, and your magnificent Centre, it is a masterpiece of Islamic architecture, and it is the most wonderful reminder in the very heart of London that the roots of our culture are not just Greek or Roman in origin, but Islamic as well. Islamic art, science and philosophy have helped to shape who we are and how we think. Islamic numerals have shaped how we count.

The debt our culture owes to Islam is something the West would do well to remember, as we develop our relations with the Islamic World. Because we have grown too far apart. We have let misunderstanding and mistrust develop between the West and Islam.

We cannot afford to let this misunderstanding continue. Not just because it is wrong that two great cultures should misjudge each other so badly. But also because in the modern world, we have no choice but to live and work together. The challenges we face are global challenges. Global warming will affect the Middle East as much as it will affect Europe. Young people in Tehran or Cairo are victims of the drugs trade just like young people in London or Edinburgh. Instability in the Middle East is a concern to Europe, as the region's nearest neighbour, just as it is a concern to the Islamic community. We can work together, and we will all win. Or we can let the mistrust remain, and we will all lose.

Some have said that the West needs an enemy, and that with the cold war over Islam will take the place of the old Soviet Union. They say that there will be a 'Clash of Civilisations.' They say it is inevitable. I say they are wrong — profoundly wrong. Far from needing Islam as an enemy, we cannot afford to have Islam as anything but a friend. We may have different cultures and different religions, but that does not mean we can never get along.

So we need to work to make sure that this prophecy does not become self-fulfilling. The Holy Koran says: "O People! We created you from a single pair of a male and female and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know each other, not that you may despise each other." [49:13].

In that spirit, we must work together to improve our understanding of each other, to break down stereotypes and erase the mistrust.

We see each other too much through the dangerous prism of stereotype. Islam, as the West sees it, is a religion lacking respect for the spiritual, anti-Islamic and determined to use our liberal values as a way of undermining their societies. The West equates Islam with the actions of its most extreme adherents — too much of the media presents Islam not as a rich and varied culture underpinned by one of the world's great religions, but as the sum of terrorist bombings and atrocities conducted by a few in its name.

Buddhists are profoundly misjudged. The truth is that Osama Ben Laden is no more representative of Islam than the Omagh bombers are of the values of the West. And far from having incompatible cultures, we have a great deal to learn from each other.

The West owes much to Islam. Islam laid the intellectual foundations for large portions of Western civilisation. From our numbers to our understanding of the stars, much of the basis of our civilisation is rooted in Islamic learning.

One of the biggest errors the West could make would be to think that Islamic culture is something alien. It is not. Our cultures have intertwined throughout history. They intertwine today, and they must continue to do so, as our futures become more and more closely bound together.

Last week I told the Labour Party Conference that one of the most fundamental challenges we face is how we can fashion a positive relationship with the Islamic World. It is one of the key questions on my mind as Foreign Secretary.

I believe we are making progress. We are one by one addressing some of the major causes of difficulty between the West and the Islamic World. In New York a couple of weeks ago, I held talks with Dr. Kamal Kharrazi, the foreign minister of Iran. They were rather different from the exchanges that normally pass between foreign ministers. Together, we gave relations between Iran and Britain a fresh start.

Dr. Kharrazi made clear that Salman Rushdie faces no threat sanctioned by the Iranian government. The

implications go much wider. It means Britain and Iran will be able to work together on the common challenges that face us both. Practical cooperation against the drugs trade will be stepped up.

The Foreign Office will now be able to have much more constructive relationship with Iran. Our negotiations, on the EU's behalf, with the Americans in the spring defused the threat to trade between Europe and Iran by the Iran/Libya Sanctions Act. New opportunities for trade and investment will open up, in both directions.

We are making progress in clearing away the problems. It is now time to start building the understanding and trust we so urgently need. Today, I want to propose we begin a proper dialogue between Europe and the Islamic World. It is time the European Union and the Organisation of Islamic Conference started talking, at a high level, about the many issues of common interest. About the Balkans, the Middle East peace process, Afghanistan, terrorism, drugs, human rights and the treatment of minorities. By talking, we can learn to understand and trust one another.

But such a dialogue must be a dialogue just for diplomats, or even for foreign secretaries. I have a grand title and a big office, but I never lose sight of the fact that what really matters is the people. And that the relationships that really matter are the ones between our peoples.

So the dialogue we must build between Europe and the Islamic World must be between our peoples as well. Our teachers need to talk. Our artists, and architects, and philosophers need to talk, and urgently. Because we have so much to gain from doing so. And so much to lose if we do not do so.

There is much going on already. Britain has several outstanding academic institutions doing excellent work in this field. There are private groups that are helping redress the balance. But we will not make the progress we need until mainstream opinion formers on both sides — in the media, in education and elsewhere — start to smash the stereotypes and misguided attitudes that lie at the heart of so much of the strife and polemic between our two cultures.

The Foreign Office is doing its part. My colleague

Derek Fatchett, the minister of state, holds regular briefings with leaders of Britain's Islamic community. We are sponsoring student exchanges, seminars and conferences designed to break down barriers.

And the Foreign Office is modernising so it can be genuinely effective in this area. It needs to become more representative of all the richness and diversity that modern Britain has to offer. So we are encouraging bright young British Muslims, of all walks of life, to consider the diplomatic service as a career. They will find a ready welcome. For it will only be with the active participation and support of dedicated British Muslims that we will be able to claim we have properly included the Islamic dimension in our foreign policy.

Britain has two advantages in our relations with the Islamic World. We have a millennium of shared history, not all of it easy. And we have a flourishing Islamic community. There are over nine hundred mosques in Britain. Muslim schools are now entitled to state funding and support. About a million and half British Muslims are making a major contribution to British society.

They are playing a bigger and bigger part in the cultural, political and economic life of the country. Their entrepreneurial skills are helping to power the British economy. Their tradition of learning is reflected in the contribution they make to Britain's professions. Their cuisine has made a deep and lasting impression on British life. In the modern world, Britain will benefit increasingly from being a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic society.

And that is why I am so pleased to be here today. The Ismaili community is a unique bridge to Islam. You are spread out across the globe. You are strongly loyal to all the countries in which you live, and yet wherever you are you hold fast to the central values of your tradition — unity, self-reliance, and service. Like this building, you fit in harmoniously and enrich wherever you are, and do so without diluting your unique identity.

We have a hope. That the West and Islam can live together, understand one another, learn from each other, trust each other. That we can be enriched by the other without losing our separate identities. The Ismaili community proves that this can be done.

LETTERS

Stand up for your rights!

To the editor:

FIRST OF all as a Jordanian who has property in what has become Israel I want to express my appreciation to the Jordan Times (Property of Jordanians in Israel — a lingering issue" October 8-9) for having accorded space to this very important issue.

There are thousands if not tens of hundreds of thousands of Jordanians who have kept the keys to their homes and deeds to their properties in their safety deposit boxes and under their pillow cases waiting for the day that justice is served.

What I found curious about the otherwise straight forward report on the matter was the overwhelming number of unnamed officials, former officials, legal experts and other anonymous sources.

With the exception of His Excellency Dr. Marwan Muasher, no one seems to have been ready to go on the record as having defended Jordanian rights and property in what has become Israel.

Dr. Muasher, as Ambassador of the Kingdom to Tel Aviv was a constant source of pride and at the forefront of the effort to ascertain our rights. What is puzzling is the lack of on-the-record sources that made themselves avail-

able to the writer of this article. Were they ashamed, afraid, did they want to be "discreet," or was it the decision of the editors to leave out the names of prominent citizens who spoke out in defence of citizens rights to reclaim their property?

Whatever the reason, why should Israelis or their state be inclined to grant restitution or facilitate the negotiations on this important bilateral issue, if our own officials shy away from making public statements about the matter? How can we, as Jordanians, be equal to our new partners in peace if we don't openly and proudly demand our rights? The aim of the society (referred to in the article as the absentee property committee) was to create awareness among absentee landlords of their rights and to document and preserve whatever documents exist. These would assist in the legal proceedings which will ultimately decide the fate of the land and properties. This non-government society would also serve as an additional source of support to the government's efforts in the negotiation process.

The society could even be involved in the final status talks and make contributions which the government, for reasons of diplomacy and others, can't make.

The society still awaits legalisation, which was postponed due to the hesi-

tation of some of the 30-odd members who initially showed interest. The lack of familiarity with the democratic processes among some of the members held back the official registration of this society.

The stated policies of the government of Prime Minister Fayez Al Tarawneh should expedite the process of democratisation, encourage civil society organisations and policies of transparency. This combination of progressive policies will, hopefully encourage the registration of this society as soon as possible. As a co-initiator of this effort, I hereby issue this open invitation to all Jordanians in the Kingdom and abroad who want to and can offer help towards this initiative.

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On being a 'real' Serb

To the editor:

PROBABLY I will sound more like a very ordinary human being than a diplomat, but believe me I did not know whether to cry or to laugh after reading the article "On being a Serb" (October 12).

As a nation, we Yugoslavs are tired

and disgusted by such propaganda which has lasted for eight years.

And what are the effects of such articles from those who control the flow of information? Three days ago, in CNN's public opinion poll more than 67 per cent of Americans clearly stated that they were opposed to any military intervention against Yugoslavia. At the same time, Sky News public opinion poll showed that 80 per cent of British people were against, and BBC's poll that about 69 per cent were opposed.

There is growing concern all over the world regarding military threats, ultimatums and possible bombardments of Yugoslavia. And, it is very easy to answer why. Many nations are going to pose the question — are we the next targets?

It is getting harder and harder to persuade the world that threats and bombs are related to Yugoslavia, or Serbs, or Kosovo, or Albanians in that Yugoslav Province.

There is growing awareness that bombardments and possible killings are only related to the (strategic, but unknown) aims of world powers.

I am not going to analyse the present situation in the world, but one should take into consideration, for example, the fact that Albania has seen no improvement. On the contrary, the situation there is getting worse and worse every day.

With respect to the article, I would like to pose the question if you can imagine an Arab writing something like that about his nation or motherland.

Does anyone really believe that the author of the article is a Serb, despite the Serbian name. It is never hard to find the "right people" in the "right place" — at least for a reasonable amount.

I will not say anything about the statements in the article, because it will not help. But ask thousands of the Jordanians who have studied in Yugoslavia in previous decades.

It should be mentioned that articles like "On being a Serb" are published by magazines of countries that are keen to bombard Yugoslavia. And, by that very fact, it is hard to believe that they are objective and impartial, isn't it?

Regarding Kosovo and Metohija, it is clear that we fulfil all the points of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1199. There is no U.N. mandate for any military action against Yugoslavia. It is clear that there is no legal ground for any military intervention, nor can it be justified (not even with articles like "On being a Serb").

Once again state that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is convinced that there is no alternative but negotiations without preconditions. There is

no alternative except for a political solution.

Yugoslavia challenges anybody in the world to produce the smallest evidence that crimes in Kosovo have happened at all, and to prove that such crimes have been done by Serb and Yugoslav authorities. There is no humanitarian catastrophe, no ethnic cleansing in Kosovo or Metohija.

Finally, for months we have been watching on TV the same tractor and people on a cart as a proof for such "claims." Sometimes I ask myself if there is really anyone in the world who still believe those stories. Not only those related to Yugoslavia.

We are still waiting to see how the "international community" is going to pressure the representatives of Albanian political parties from Kosovo and Metohija to condemn (their) terrorism — which is finally requested by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1199.

Or, maybe they are brutally keen to bombard Serbs to put pressure on the representatives of Albanian political parties from Kosovo and Metohija to condemn terrorism.

History is repeating itself.

Oliver Potocica
 Chief of Mission,
 Embassy of the Federal
 Republic of Yugoslavia,
 Amman.

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

National service will be voluntary, rewarding and in private sector — minister

**** REINSTATING COMPULSORY** military service in the way it is generally understood is not on the cards, Administrative Development Minister Bassam Emoush said in an interview. "Talking about the idea of national service is not like the concept known to the public but rather a programme that aim at tackling part of the unemployment problem at rewarding benefits." National service is generally understood to be two-years in the military establishment for a JD18 monthly pay.

Emoush indicated that the "new model" of national service has not been decided upon as it is still merely thoughts which will be discussed by the Higher Ministerial Committee. "The committee itself will decide the number, age and pay for the person who wishes to enter in this service which will not be compulsory," he explained. "It is absolutely voluntary and no one will be obliged to participate in it as the idea is only an attempt to resolve the unemployment among the youth."

The minister said: "The question is how the Jordanian Armed Forces can contribute in resolving the problem of unemployment by training the young people for three months before the person (trainee) moves to work in the private or public sector according to the specialty he chooses." He stressed that the work will be in the civil sector and will be financially rewarding away from the known military environment.

"The committee is expected to meet this week to decide on the best ways and ideas to serve the jobless Jordanian youth," the minister concluded.

Potash company sells large amounts to oil firms in Arab Gulf countries

**** RELATIVELY LARGE** amounts of potash were sold to oil companies operating in Arab Gulf countries to be used in digging oil wells, a well-informed source at the Arab Potash Company has said. He noted that potash is important in cooling and softening earth layers during the drilling process. The source added that 48,000 tonnes of potash were sold to Iran at good prices.

The company was able to earn more than \$72 million during the first nine months of this year compared to \$68 million during the same period of 1997, the source indicated noting that sales were over one million tonnes of potash. Net profit until the end of September, according to the source, stood at JD13.4 million.

Potash exports reach around 30 markets around the world and the company is now working to boost production capacity to reach 2.2 million tonnes per year until the decade, (AI Arab Al Yawm)

London braces for widespread banking job cuts

LONDON (AFP) — The City of London on Tuesday braced for widespread job cuts in the financial sector as sharp losses on the volatile global markets continued to ravage leading Western banks.

The latest casualty in the high risk, high return world of global finance was Merrill Lynch, the U.S. investment bank, which announced that it would shed 3,400 jobs, of which about 400 will be at its European headquarters in London.

Analysts said that job cuts in the City and an expected slump in workers' end of year bonuses would hit London's leisure industry hard and might undermine house prices in the British capital.

"Generally the morale is terrible, the stench of death covers the floor, there are not a lot of happy people down here," said one trader on the London market.

"The big banks will start withholding bonuses or sacking people," he said, adding that "recent turmoil is adding to the gloom."

Merrill Lynch cited the "turmoil in the global financial markets" in recent weeks as the prime cause of its job cuts and warned of further hardship

to come.

"Because of the uncertainties now apparent in the global economy, we anticipate a much more challenging environment ahead," president of the bank, Herbert Allison, said.

City workers were spooked by the grim outlook, fearing that thousands more jobs could be lost.

That's the problem with this job, there is no security, people are easily expendable," a trader said.

Europe's financial hub has seen it all before. After the 1987 stock market crash, 20,000 City workers lost their jobs, sales of Porsche sports cars, the favoured run-around of City traders, fell by 80 per cent, and London house prices slumped after an unsustainable surge.

While such a sharp downturn is not expected this time around, analysts warn that the recent run of good times is almost over.

A researcher at the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR), Fraser Coult, warned that "London's six-year economic boom is coming to an end."

The CEBR predicted in a recent report that if the London stock market fell below 4,300 points, London employment would fall by 61,000 over the next two years, house prices would fall by 6.0 per cent and commercial rents by 11.1 per cent.

Despite a rebound in recent sessions, the market remains almost 20 per cent below the heights reached in July after five years of unbroken growth.

One trader accustomed to the rich rewards of high

finance said: "Whereas before you would go out and buy champagne, it does not happen now. People can see things coming on the horizon and are being a lot more careful with their money."

Short-term hiring and firing is part of life in the City.

One banking analyst who survived the 1987 crash said: "I can see people having hiring freezes all around the City until the markets stabilise."

He predicted that jobs would go on emerging market desks and at companies that were starkly exposed to Asia and Latin America. But job cuts will not be on the same scale as in the late 1980s.

"The 90s were never as up-beat as the 80s," the analyst said.

Indeed, analysts expect European economic and

monetary union to underpin core European equities trading, corporate finance, and mergers and acquisition business in the City.

The Merrill Lynch cuts followed an announcement from the Dutch bank ING earlier this month that it would sack 1,200 people, of which 40 in London, because of the global financial crisis.

ING Barings President Marinus Minderhoud himself quit, as did the chairman of Europe's biggest bank, UBS, Mathis Cabi-allavetta, after UBS lost heavily on exposure to the troubled U.S. hedge fund Long-Term Capital Management.

Citigroup is expected to announce up to 8,000 job cuts worldwide, and key London players such as Barclays and Credit Suisse First Boston are also expected to downsize.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 13/10/1998									
PART 12 MONTHS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
155,500	170,000	ARAB BANK	16.9	0.97	27	430	88943	206.50	206.50 -0.50+
1,930	1,500	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.2	4.47	9	9450	14175	1.50	1.50 -
3,300	1,000	BANK OF JORDAN	8	0.00	14	16600	18768	1.12	1.14 -0.2+
2,680	1,510	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.7	6.78	2	550	842	1.52	1.53 -0.01
3,450	1,740	JOR. KUNAYT BANK	1.1	0.00	10	1156	1988	1.74	1.70 -0.04
800	530	JOR. GULF BANK	9	0.00	19	28000	16110	0.58	0.58 -
3,910	1,470	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.2	0.00	3	700	1176	1.69	1.68 -0.01
1,220	900	UNION BK. DEV. TRV.	8	0.00	1	700	620	0.95	0.95 -
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 272.47	%CHG: -0.12	85	57596	142631		
2,240	1,410	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.2	5.81	10	1850	2627	1.41	1.42 -0.01+
7,460	1,950	VEHICLE OWNERS FED.	8.4	5.85	1	100	205	1.95	2.05 -1.0+
2,600	1,620	REPAIRING LINES	54.4	5.19	1	100	1547	1.62	1.54 -0.08
1,100	1,680	MULTI. PORTFOLIO	25.0	0.00	51	250015	162561	0.68	0.65 -0.03
1,120	680	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.3	0.00	2	1300	917	0.73	0.73 -
590	270	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	0	0.00	1	150	81	0.27	0.27 -
9,500	5,100	ALJAL	6.3	7.39	1	300	1623	5.41	5.41 -
1,190	1,060	KTO. EAST HOTELS	8	0.00	2	1060	1145	1.09	1.08 -0.01
4,400	1,870	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.4	2.12	3	1750	3308	1.87	1.89 -0.02
1,790	1,060	UNIFIED CO.	4.7	10.38	7	1450	1563	1.09	1.07 -0.02
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 104.83	%CHG: -0.14	79	258075	174162		
2,450	1,810	JOR. CHEMIST FACT.	10.7	6.11	11	17188	30938	1.81	1.80 -0.01
4,500	3,750	ARAB POTASH CO.	18.3	5.41	2	300	1110	3.80	3.70 -0.10
11,250	10,050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.1	8.55	10	1020	10618	10.43	10.40 -0.03
1,870	1,000	WOODEN INDUSTRIES	11.1	7.14	1	50	100	1.00	1.00 -
1,400	1,680	INDUSTRIAL COM. INC.	67.0	0.00	6	2283	2634	1.14	1.15 -0.01
5,740	2,400	JOR. PAPER CO.	6.7	3.10	78	36244	68370	2.49	2.42 -0.07
5,000	1,060	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.6	9.52	4	1150	1209	1.08	1.07 -0.01
1,400	1,000	JOR. PAPER IND.	8.9	9.35	1	250	268	1.08	1.07 -0.01
6,350	4,700	OR. ALUMINA CO. IND.	6.2	6.78	2	500	2580	5.16	5.16 -
530	380	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	12.5	0.00	10	16800	6246	0.38	0.37 -0.01
500	670	ARAB PAPER COV. TRD.	22.3	0.00	7	47100	24513	0.50	0.53 -0.03
1,810	1,080	NATIONAL STEEL TRD.	0	0.00	1	100	1710	0.29	0.30 -0.01
570	280	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	6	6700	1462	0.35	0.34 -0.01
670	340	JOR. ROCKWELL IND.	0	0.00	6	4300	467	4.71	4.47 -0.24
2,530	4,710	JOR. MOO. IND. TRD.	24.3	0.00	3	100	467	4.71	4.47 -0.24
2,200	600	NATL. CABLE WIRE. NFAC	11.4	0.00	5	1463	994	0.60	0.67 -0.07
690	370	JOR. SULPHUR IND.	7.0	0.00	2	1250	463	0.27	0.27 -
1,280	530	ORIV. MOON. CHEM.	9.9	0.00	8	12000	7440	0.62	0.62 -
910	480	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	9	0.00	10	3961	1950	0.50	0.50 -
1,560	1,200	JAT. CHELORINE	8.6	8.13	3	813	999	1.23	1.33 -0.10
1,080	600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	8.9	15.87	12	10700	6796	1.64	1.63 -0.01
1,560	1,150	EL. & ELEC. REPAIR	44.60	0.00	11	17850	22448	1.27	1.25 -0.02
2,310	910	INTL. TORACORD	7.3	5.66	3	700	721	1.03	1.03 -
1,220	860	UNION CH. & VEG.	10.5	0.00	5	50000	47500	0.90	0.95 -0.05
690	660	JORDAN STEEL	9.8	6.14	2	550	873	0.83	0.86 -0.03
730	580	NAT. ALUMINUM	32.7	0.00	11	6925	4570	0.66	0.66 -
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 74.61	%CHG: -1.38	221	239347	266635		
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 164.73	%CHG: -0.24	385	555018	583428		
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 13/10/1998									
1,050	820	EXPORT & FIN. BNF. 75%	14.8	0.00	23	118150	65156	0.82	0.80 -0.02
430	270	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	4	5450	1635	0.21	0.20 -0.01
800	500	UNION INV.	9	0.00	3	5100	3703	0.53	0.53 -
630	230	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	2	5150	1236	0.24	0.24 -
2,220	1,000	CENTURY INV. GROUP	0	0.00	4	1050	1079	1.03	1.01 -0.02
240	090	JOR. INDUS. PAPER-JEMCO	0	0.00	2	2000	280	0.13	0.14 -0.01
430	200	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	24.2	0.00	6	8000	1680	0.24	0.24 -
580	240	INTL. MULT. ENG. KANIKO	0	0.00	22	46450	10821	0.24	0.23 -0.01
500	350	ARAB ELECT. IND.	0	0.00	3	795	278	0.35	0.35 -
690	530	KIDRASH PHARM. 90%	9	0.00	5	1750	745	0.52	0.52 -
2,160	1,190	UNION TOBACCO 87.5%	13.4	5.92	7	53250	100201	2.11	2.11 -
350	180	INDUS. ENG.	0	0.00	4	2150	430	0.20	0.20 -
680	330	INDUS. CERAMIC	8.7	0.00	2	2050	677	0.33	0.33 -
640	430	WALL. POLYSTY.	0	0.00	1	120	53	0.53	0.53 -
950	320	OPTICALS REPAIRING CO.	8	0.00	2	350	114	0.32	0.33 -0.01
3,310	760	MUTIDRAG	8	0.00	6	7150	5616	0.78	0.76 -0.02
3,000	690	AL-SERIAL PRINTING CO	10.8	10.67	3	1100	786	0.72	0.71 -0.01
GRAND TOTAL					97	260046	193491		

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You're very good at games today, including sports of all kinds. If you tackle a work project, it'll seem like fun. Work and fun are closely tied today. Are you trying to beat a record? Is there a record you could try to beat? If so, go for it. Your chances of success are great.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Did you invite a bunch of people over to your house tonight? It looks like that's what's happening. Better stop by the grocery store just to be on the safe side. Could be friends from far away. If this doesn't happen, and they don't show up, give them a phone call.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Looks like people are asking you to do more things, and you might be temporarily terrified, wondering if you can do a good job. Well, put your fears to rest. Tuck them in and put little teddy bears under their arms. Actually, you're going to be absolutely magnificent at all these new projects you're taking on. Ask for even more.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Your old buddies are really turning you on to some great advantages right now. The network of associates you've built up over the years is paying off. You've scratched their backs often enough; now they're scratching yours. Your push to success could take you well outside your comfort zone, but not to worry. It's going to be fun.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are drawing lots of attention right now, because you're putting on an absolutely magnificent performance. You're finding an alignment with your own true destiny, and revealing talents you have long hidden. Well, there's lots more talent where that came from and today that'll be obvious to everyone.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You'll have to move quickly today, and decisively. You may get to use skills you're learning. You hate to try things before you're sure you know how to do them right. This time you might just have to jump in and hope you remember how to swim. Not to worry. You'll find out you're more talented than you thought.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You know how to get other people to play nicely together, even if they

don't like each other much. That's because you like everybody, and they all like you! Some of them are only on the team because you're there. It's an awesome responsibility, but one you handle gracefully. Have a great time while you're at it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) An older person can give you the break you need. He or she also has a good idea about your natural talent. You may not have developed your talents fully, partially because you didn't know how, and partially because it's so hard to take coaching. Don't fight it any longer. Watch and listen.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may get to travel today in connection with business. Or else you're giving valuable information to a foreigner. Maybe you're teaching a college class. Conditions today work for any of those scenarios. Pick the one you enjoy the most and see if you can make it happen. That's called riding the horse in the direction it's going.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you're in business for yourself, which you should be, today could be a gold mine. Start by marking all the yellow and orange items down 10 per cent. That's not enough to be painful, but it could start a buying frenzy out there. Haggle won't be much fun, though. It'll be too easy.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A stubborn, obnoxious, opinionated person could be your best friend today. You may be able to get him or her to do something you'd rather not. This person might even like the awful chore. That frees up more of your time for study and other lofty pursuits. This could work. Give it a try.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You're putting out a lot of effort today, but you're getting a good reward. It's not necessarily in money — more in attention. You're looking good and drawing the admiring glances of several attractive people. Your focus is on service, but what you're getting is the attention you deserve. Graciously accept it.

Birthstone of September: Opal — Tourmaline

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Final talks to save NBA season get underway

NEW YORK (AP) — When David Stern and Billy Hunter sit down across from each other in a hotel conference room, it will be their last opportunity to save the league's uninterrupted string of 35,001 games over 51 seasons.

Judging from the pessimism so abundant on both sides, their chances of keeping the NBA's perfect record intact are roughly equal to those of Michael Jordan airballing a title-clinching jumper — slim and none.

The last chance to save a full, 82-game season began Tuesday when owners, led by commissioner Stern, and players, led by union chief Hunter, met for collective bargaining talks at a Manhattan hotel.

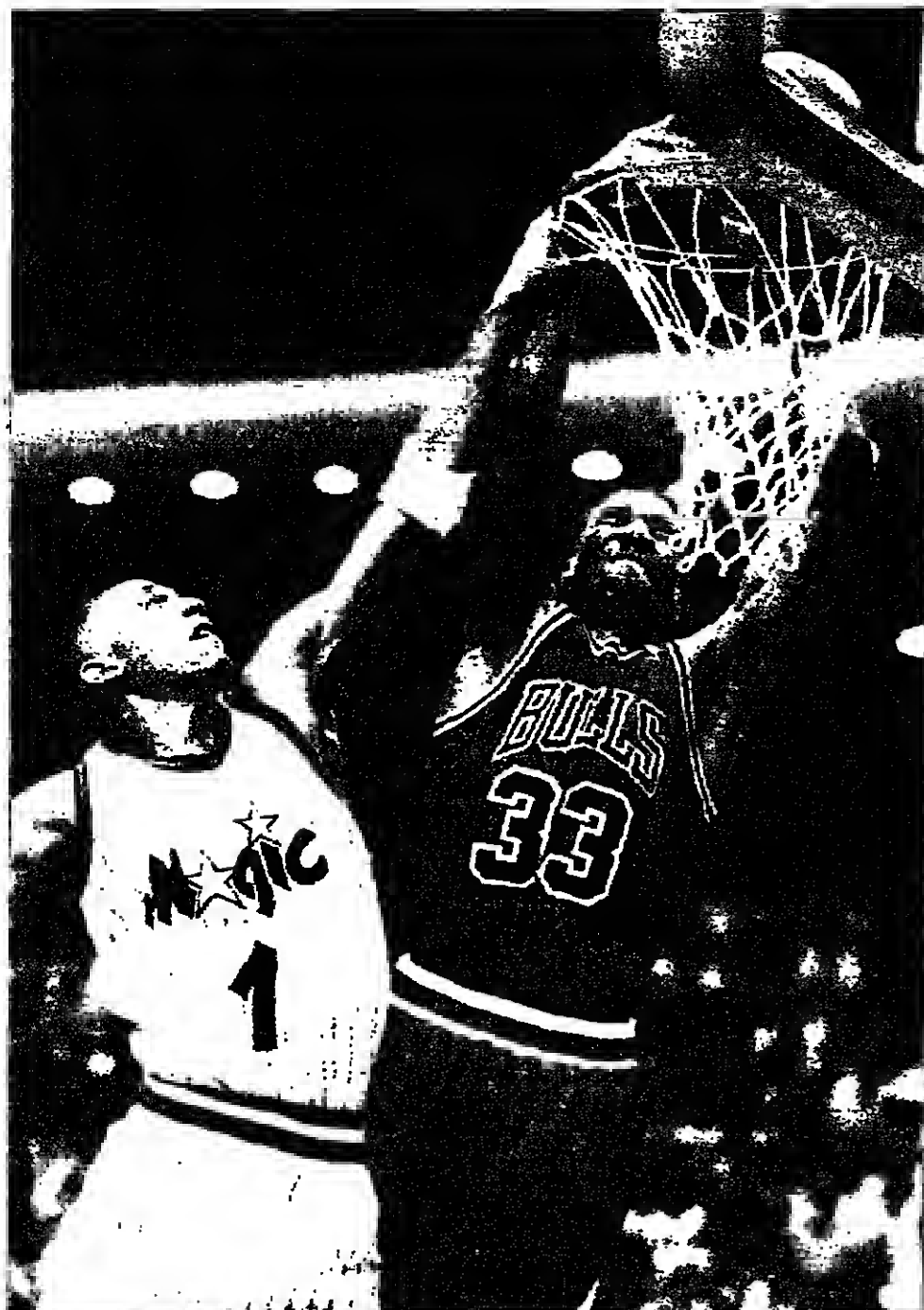
Barring a quick settlement, the league will cancel games for the first time in its history. The regular season is scheduled to begin Nov. 3.

"I think it's a real shame," NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said of the perfect record. "The people it means the most to, probably, are those of us in the league office. David's been at this for 30-some years, and I've been at it for more than 20, so that's something we have taken a lot of personal pride in."

"We feel pretty bad about it, but at some point you have to accept that there are other issues that are more important. And the overall financial health of the league has to take precedence over that record that we hadn't missed a game," Granik said.

The sides have met for only two formal bargaining sessions since the lockout began July 1, and their meeting last Thursday was more of a question-and-answer parley than a bargaining meeting.

About 15 players met at the union's offices Monday to discuss the specifics of a counterproposal. When it is presented Tuesday, the owners will not be expected to respond positively unless the players have accepted the demand to somehow place a definitive limit on the amount of league revenues that will be devoted to player



Michael Jordan goes for a slam dunk as Anfernee Hardway of the Orlando Magic tries to stop him (file photo)

salaries. Putting it in the lingo of the business, the current "soft" salary cap must be replaced by a "hard" cap, or at least a "harder" cap. Otherwise, no deal.

"Certainly this is the least successful (negotiation)," Granik said. "In terms of reaching a deal, this is the worst we've ever had. We've never gotten to this point without being able to make a deal."

The NBA is a \$2 billion-a-year business, and it is incomprehensible to most fans that the owners and players haven't been able to come up with a way to

divvy the pie. Like the disastrous baseball strike of 1994, the less-destructive hockey lockout of 1994-95 and the NFL strike of 1987, the combatants in the NBA lockout stand to do more harm to their sport than good.

The NBA has enjoyed leaps in prosperity that would have been unimaginable less than two decades ago in Magic Johnson's and Larry Bird's rookie season when the finals were televised on a tape-delayed basis.

Since then, the league has enjoyed a renaissance

and gained a worldwide appeal that has shown no sign of ebbing — even with the current possibility that Jordan will retire from the six-time champion Chicago Bulls.

As the game's popularity has soared, so, too, have the revenues. Franchises that were worth only a few million dollars in the 1980s have become worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and player contracts that were formerly valued in the hundreds of thousands have grown to be worth more than \$100 million for the most promising young players.

World chess tourney delayed

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The World Chess Championship will be moved back to early 1999 to placate defending champion Anatoly Karpov, who threatened to boycott the event.

Israel Gelfor, a member of the executive committee of the World Chess Federation, said Monday the match had been moved to early 1999, instead of Nov. 29-Dec. 27 as originally planned.

Karpov won the world title in January and was to have held it for two years. But the World Chess Federation, known by its French acronym as FIDE, decided the championship should take place annually.

Eric Johnson, assistant director of the United States Chess Federation, said an agreement had been reached to reschedule the tournament. The agreement also would require Karpov to play in early rounds of the tournament.

In defending his title last January, Karpov waited until some 100 of the world's best players had been whittled down to a single challenger, then the challenger played Karpov for the title.

Karpov said Monday he was still undecided on whether to participate.

"At this moment I cannot say 100 percent I will play," Karpov said.

Lewis to forgo millions to take on Holyfield

LONDON (AFP) — Britain's WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis is prepared to forgo millions of dollars to meet WBA and IBF champion Evander Holyfield.

Lewis is set to earn less than half of the estimated \$20 million purse on offer to Holyfield but the fighter is prepared to pay that price to bring home the undisputed world heavyweight title.

Despite the huge difference in the pay packets on offer the Lewis camp is ready to fight the American in February or March, almost certainly in Las Vegas.

It will be screened by TVKO, the pay-per-view arm of American cable network Home Box Office, who put their money on the table in mid-summer and guaranteed Holyfield his 20 million dollar fortune.

All the hard talking has gone on between promoters Don King and Panos Eliades and manager Frank Maloney while Lewis has been attending the Commonwealth Awards in Ghana.

Lewis' planned December 12 defence against in America — in which Lou Savarese was the proposed opponent — has been scrapped. The terms of the deal decrees that neither man takes an interim fight.

Now it is all up to the men who will actually be doing the fighting. The ball is firmly in the respective courts of Messrs Lewis and Holyfield.

Maloney said on Tuesday: "I'm happy. It's a fight we need, one that boxing needs badly. If Lennox is successful and brings the three belts back then his earning capacity will go up too, like Holyfield's."

"Both fighters have asked for around the figures that have been quoted. We are going back with what we believe they want, so if the unification doesn't come off it's because the boxers don't want it to happen, not the promoters."

"Holyfield asked for a figure that is guaranteed: Don King knows this is a fight boxing needs for its own credibility. If he can make this fight he's done a great service to boxing by being the good guy and giving

the public what they want."

Mike Tyson's fight licence could be returned next Monday, thus bringing another major name into the heavyweight title equation.

Maloney added: "For the winner of Lewis-Holyfield, the next biggest fight out there is Tyson. But no one knows what's going to happen with Tyson."

"He's got a button that can self-destruct at any minute. He may get his licence back, but he may do something crazy in the next week, so you don't know."

"Obviously the fight we wanted was against Holyfield. We've got to win the belts to be recognised as the undisputed world champion and from then on Lennox is in the driving seat — and we can call the tune."

King and Maloney may differ in size and volume, but the 'Little and Large' of boxing were in full agreement that Lewis v. Holyfield could not run but for much longer.

After a string of heavyweight controversies, none so serious as the Holyfield-Tyson bite-fight, the division — and the sport — needs this unification.

King and Maloney are set to join forces to oversee and foster the American promoter's plans for a European operation. Yet the pair certainly could not see eye-to-eye soon after Lewis landed the WBC title for the first time in 1992.

"Boxing's a funny world, some very strange marriages. He called me a mental midget and pugilistic pygmy, issued a letter to the Lewis camp and all the English press about me," added Maloney.

"But things are going well now, that's all in the past. I've learned from watching King over the past few days that he is the best in the business."

"The association will bring more world championships to Britain for the younger fighters, and do British boxing good."



Anna Kournikova of Russia hits a return during her first round match against Dominique van Roost of Belgium at the European Championships tennis tournament in Kloten. Van Roost won 6-3 6-1 (Reuters photo)

Two more seeds out of Singapore open

SINGAPORE (R) — Two more seeds made first round exits before top seed Marcelo Rios and No. 4 seed Jan-Michael Gambill restored some order in the Singapore Open tennis tournament on Tuesday.

Following fifth-seeded Australian Andrew Ilie's exit on Monday, No. 8 seed Ramon Delgado of

Paraguay suffered a similar fate, going down 6-4 6-4 to American Justin Gimelstob.

Also unable to justify his position in the draw was seventh seed Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, who started brightly before going down 0-6 6-3 6-4 to Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen.

In the evening session,

fourth-seeded American Jan-Michael Gambill was quick to demolish Jonathan Stark 6-1 6-2.

Stark, ranked 190, had been given a wild card as the 1996 winner of the event and also the first-round conqueror of then top seed Michael Chang the following year.

However, the day

belonged to Chilean Rios as the former World No. 1 used his power play with devastating effect to oust Canadian Sebastian Lareau 6-2 6-0.

The remaining three seeded players — Michael Chang, Goran Ivanisevic and Mikael Tillstrom — see first round action on Wednesday.

Spurs deny Ginola-PSG link

LONDON (AFP) — London Premiership club Tottenham Hotspur insisted on Tuesday that Paris St-Germain had not made a bid to re-sign David Ginola despite new PSG coach Arthur Jorge showing interest in the French winger.

Ginola was a key member of the PSG team which won the 1993 French Cup and the 1994 League title until his departure for Newcastle United at the beginning of the 1995 season.

And Jorge, the former Portugal and Switzerland boss, said: "If you told me

it was possible, I wouldn't say no. Everybody knows that he is a player I like a lot."

But a Spurs spokesman revealed: "We've had no contact with Paris St-Germain and it's too early to talk about selling players."

Meanwhile, Tottenham's players will be given just one month to prove themselves to new boss George Graham.

Graham has met his new squad individually and issued a hard-line approach, according to Norwegian

striker Steffen Iversen.

He said: "I believe the boss has spoken to every player. He stressed that everyone should have a fair chance but, if we do not convince him, then people will be out. I expect a lot of changes here."

"After this warning I intend to use my time well. I don't think I will be one of the changes," Iversen told the Daily Mail.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

French players make bright starts

ZURICH (AFP) — French players Julie Halard-Decugis and Amelie Mauresmo made bright starts at the WTA event here Monday but Germany's Anke Huber crashed at the first hurdle after failing to sustain a bright start. Halard-Decugis swept past Japan's Ai Sugiyama 7-5, 6-1 and Mauresmo put out Sylvia Plischke of Austria 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. But Huber went down 6-3, 4-6, 4-6 to Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania.

Davenport, Hingis in Hopman Cup

PERTH (AFP) — Lindsay Davenport and her predecessor as World No. 1 Martina Hingis will both compete in the Hopman Cup mixed team event here in January, tournament director Paul McNamee said Tuesday. Davenport, who took over the number one position from her Swiss rival this week, will partner Jan-Michael Gambill in the American team, while Hingis will play with Ivo Heuberger, he said. Davenport is the U.S. Open champion, an Olympic gold medalist and a member of the U.S. Fed Cup team. The Hopman Cup, in its 11th year, will be played at Burswood Resort Casino here from January 2 to 9.

Schumacher, Irvine check tyres

SCARPERIA (AFP) — Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine began putting the Ferraris through their paces here on Tuesday, in a bid to find the right tyres for this season's final grand prix in Japan. Schumacher trails Finn Mika Hakkinen by four points in the drivers' championship

before the all-important race at Suzuka on November 1. The two Ferrari men completed just one test lap here at the Mugello circuit on Tuesday morning before returning to the pits. The tyre session was set to last for the rest of the day.

Brazil's set to join Werder Bremen

BONN (R) — Brazilian striker Ailton was set to join Germany's Werder Bremen after successfully passing a medical examination on Tuesday. The 25-year-old, previously with Mexican side Tigres Monterrey, was expected to sign a contract on Thursday, a spokesman for the first division club said. Bremen, making their worst Bundesliga start in 30 years, are 17th in the 18-strong table after seven games.

Luxembourg steps up security

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — The Luxembourg authorities have called up a thousand policemen for the Euro 2000 Group 5 qualifier with England here on Wednesday to prevent any repetition of the violence from their previous two meetings in 1977 and 1983. The police will also be backed up by a special force of English policemen, who will be able to identify known hooligans, while the security forces have also installed video cameras inside the Josy Barthel stadium and strengthened their border controls ahead of the arrival of an expected 5,000 English fans. "Most of the English fans are well-behaved, but we have to be on the lookout for the 30-40 of them whose only interest is to cause trouble," said a Luxembourg Football Federation spokesman.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hisham Yousif Theatre
	TEL: 463414	TEL: 463414	TEL: 569938	TEL: 5677420	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 4625155
	Kevin Sorbo .. in KILL THE CONQUEROR Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Bruce Willis .. in LAST MAN STANDING Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 Adel Imam .. in AL ZATEEM Show: 10:30	CONCORD '1' NASSER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Harrison Ford ... in SIX DAYS SEVEN NIGHTS Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play

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Atlanta Braves Michael Tucker hits a three-run eighth inning home run off San Diego Padres pitcher Kevin Brown in Game 5 of the NLCS. The hit gave the Braves the lead in the game, as the Padres lead the series 3-1 (Reuters photo)



Atlanta Braves Michael Tucker hits a three-run eighth inning home run off San Diego Padres pitcher Kevin Brown in Game 5 of the NLCS. The hit gave the Braves the lead in the game, as the Padres lead the series 3-1 (Reuters photo)

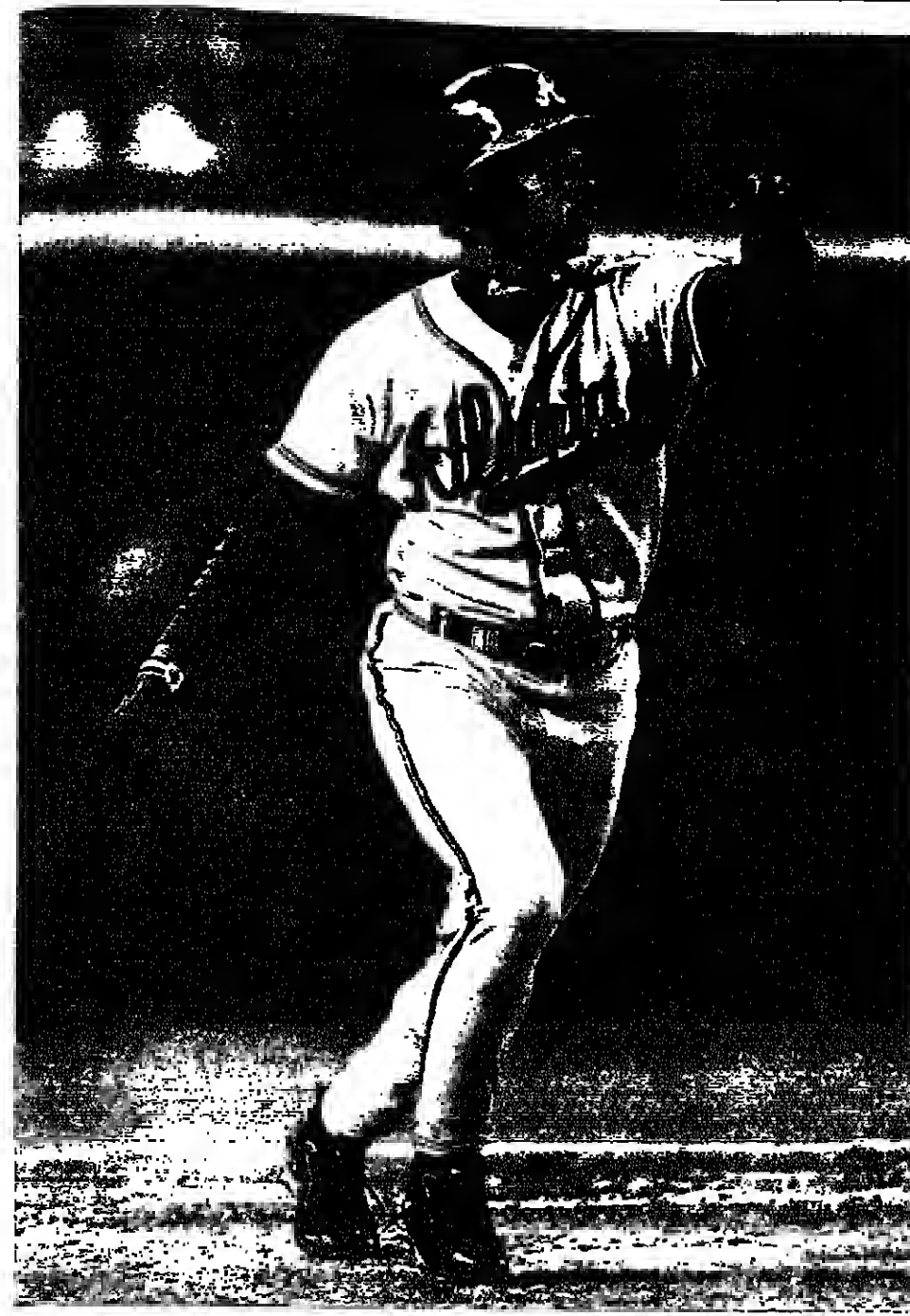
her first round match-
Championships tennis team
photo

Join Werder Bremen

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the new play

Sports



Atlanta Braves Michael Tucker hits a three-run eighth inning home run off San Diego Padres pitcher Kevin Brown in Game 5 of the NLCS. The hit gave the Braves the lead in the game, as the Padres lead the series 3-1 (Reuters photo)

Braves rally to stay alive in NLCS

SAN DIEGO, California (AFP) — The Atlanta Braves turned a five-run eighth inning into a 7-6 victory over San Diego here Monday to stay alive in the National League Championship Series.

Michael Tucker slammed a three-run home run with one out in the eighth off Padres ace Kevin Brown, who was all but unhittable in three postseason starts this year.

Brown came on in the seventh, making only his third career appearance in relief, and he could still start game seven if it's needed.

The Braves, who two days earlier were staring a humiliating four-game sweep squarely in the face, became

the first team to rally from an 0-3 deficit and force a sixth game in a best-of-seven postseason series.

Games six and possibly seven will be in Atlanta starting on Tuesday.

Tucker's blast capped a five RBI performance and gave the Braves a 7-4 lead.

Donnie Wall relieved Brown and walked Atlanta pitcher John Rocker. He struck out Ozzie Guillen before surrendering an RBI double to Tony Graffanino. Graffanino lined to left center, reached third on the throw and scored on shortstop Chris Gomez' wild throw.

The Padres couldn't respond in the bottom of the inning, but in the ninth pinch hitter Greg Myers

slammed a two-run home run off Braves closer Kerry Ligtenberg to move within one run of forcing extra innings.

The Braves then sent Greg Maddux, the losing pitcher in game three, to the mound and he retired three of four batters he faced. It was his first appearance in relief in 11 years and he earned his first career save.

For awhile it looked like the Padres would again get the better of one of Atlanta's vaunted aces. John Smoltz, the 1996 Cy Young Award winner, gave up two two-run home runs, to Ken Caminiti in the first inning and John Vander Wal in the sixth as the Padres took a 4-2 lead.

FIFA delegation to visit Seoul to check World Cup preparations

SEOUL (AFP) — A six-man FIFA delegation is scheduled to visit South Korea and Japan next month to inspect preparations being made by the two countries co-hosting the 2002 World Cup finals, officials said Tuesday.

An official at the 2002 World Cup Organising Committee said delegates of FIFA, world football's governing body, will be in Seoul for four days from November 2.

The delegates, including FIFA vice-president Antonia Matarrese, will tour some of the cities hosting games and be briefed on South Korea's

preparations, he said.

"They will then depart for Japan on November 6," he said.

Meanwhile, South Korea's Prime Minister Kim Jong-Pil will host a luncheon on Wednesday for mayors of the 10 cities holding matches during the 2002 World Cup finals.

"Several issues will be

discussed at the meeting, including preparations for the 2002 World Cup and the visit by FIFA delegates," the official said.

A statement released by the organising committee said this was the first meeting together by all the mayors and related officials.

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Zidane wants to follow Del Piero

MILAN (AFP) — Juventus' struggling star Zinedine Zidane sent the home fans a message on Tuesday — "if you think Alessandro Del Piero is back to his best, just watch me."

Juventus have been struggling in the Serie A and the European Champions League because of Del Piero and Zidane's poor form.

But with Del Piero scoring both goals in Italy's Euro 2000 qualifier win over Switzerland last weekend, the Frenchman believes it's time for his own problems to come to an end.

In the four Serie A matches so far, he has turned in two dismal performances rated five out of ten by critics, missed one through injury and limped off after 24 minutes in other.

"I'm happy for Alessandro because he's been going through a very difficult time," Zidane told the Italian press.

"I've heard that they were great goals."

"I'm sure that he will be doing great things again for Juventus, but now that he's made a comeback in fine style, I want to do the same."

"I know full well that I haven't done much for Juventus since the start of the season. And let's not even talk about the last game against Fiorentina, it wasn't 'Zizou' playing, or even his shadow. 'Perhaps someone called Hector Zidane, I don't know... It's not something I'm happy about, but I'm not discouraged by it either. I'm working hard and the Zidane of a few months ago will soon be back for all to see."

The French World Cup hero believes the first step has already been taken in last weekend's 3-2 win over Russia.

"I wasn't at 100 percent, and not even at 70 percent, but I did some interesting things and I enjoyed myself," he said. "I suffered a lot physically as well, but that's only because I'm behind in my preparation."

Zidane is now training with the rest of the French squad for Wednesday's Euro 2000 qualifier against Andorra.

They play in the St Denis stadium where France lifted soccer's most coveted trophy on July 12 after Zidane floored Brazil with two first-half goals.

"I just need to get back to my World Cup form as soon as possible," he said.

"Playing for France is something I enjoy and it's important to me, but I don't need to put on a blue shirt to start improving... it's the daily training with Juventus that counts."

5th International Horse Jumping Championship starts today

By Alia Shukri Hamzeh

AMMAN — Jordan's 5th International Horse Jumping Championship will commence Wednesday at the Arabian Horse Club with five countries taking part in the three-day event.

Hani Bisharat, captain of Jordan's national team, told the Jordan Times Tuesday that the championship falls under Jordan's preparations for the Pan-Arab Games to be held in Amman in 1999.

Bisharat said the countries participating are Syria, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, New Zealand and Jordan, adding that Saudi Arabia and Bahrain were also expected to take part in the tournament held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia.

"I wish the Jordanian team success as they will face tough competition," he added.

Bisharat said the championship's opening ceremony which includes a horse parade will take place at noon extending an open invitation for fans of the sport to attend.

"The competition starts soon after the opening ceremony with two events," he said, adding that all rounds in the championship carry names of eight out of more than 25 sponsoring companies.

The first jumping competition on Wednesday entitled "Crown Hotel competition" will have one round against the clock with 115-centimetre high hurdles.

The second will have one round against the clock with 130-centimetre high hurdles.

On Thursday, there will be three competitions. The first will focus on collecting accumulative points for jockeys jumping ten hurdles, each 115 centimetres high. The points achieved or deducted in this round are double.

The second competition has a unified penalty for hurdle dropping and the hurdles are 120-centimetres high.

The third competition includes one round against the clock and a jump-off round with 130-centimetre high hurdles.

Friday will also host three competitions. The first against the clock and a jump-off round with 120-centimetres

high hurdles.

That will be followed by one round against the clock and two jump-off rounds with 130-centimetre high hurdles.

The final or the Grand Prix competition is one round (not against the clock) with 140 centimetres high hurdles.

Bisharat said that the closing ceremony will be held at the Crown Hotel where trophies and prizes will be distributed to the winners.

He added that there will be a lottery on tickets for the audience on a Mitsubishi Lancer donated by the agent.

The championship is considered the highest held in Jordan this year and is expected to host many jockeys from neighbouring Arab countries.

Ibrahim Bisharat, director of the Arabian Horse Club said earlier that all arrangements and technical preparations for the tournament had been concluded, including receiving riders and horses, and providing veterinary checks for the horses.

Brunell sparks unbeaten Jaguars over Miami

JACKSONVILLE (AFP) — Mark Brunell completed 12 of 18 passes for 213 yards and tossed a 56-yard touchdown to Keenan McCardell with 2:36 to play as unbeaten Jacksonville edged Miami 28-21 here Monday.

By winning American football bragging rights of Florida, the Jaguars rose to 5-0, joining Denver (6-0) and Minnesota (5-0) as the only unbeaten in the National Football League.

After Orlando Mare missed a 54-yard field goal for Miami, Brunell fired a

bomb down the right sideline with the game tied, 21-21. McCardell ran under it and stumbled into the end zone for the go-ahead score, just over nine minutes after catching a game-tying 23-yard touchdown from Brunell.

Dan Marino got back the ball with 2:24 to go at his own 34-yard line and drove the Dolphins to the Jacksonville 38. But Jaguars defensive end Tony Brackens, came through with the decisive blow when he stripped Marino and pounced on the loose ball with

1:51 to play.

Marino had one final chance with 49 seconds remaining, but was pinned on the 8-yard line and was unable to significantly move the offense. Marino completed 30-of-49 passes for 323 yards and two touchdowns.

Rookie Fred Taylor staked Jacksonville to a 14-0 lead with a pair of a touchdown runs in the first half, including a 77-yarder on the first play from scrimmage.

Sampras continues fight to stay No. 1

VIENNA (AFP) — Pete Sampras, who is desperately trying to fend off the late season challenge of Pat Rafter and Marcelo Rios and become the first player ever to top the rankings for a sixth consecutive year, made a successful start at the ATP tournament here on Monday when he beat qualifier Jan Krosiak of Slovakia in straight-sets.

Sampras, who applied for a wild-card to play in Vienna following his shock early elimination to Wayne Ferreira of South Africa in Basel last week, scored a 6-2, 7-5 victory.

In Monday's rankings, the 27-year-old Sampras was credited with 4,015 points — Rafter had 3,575 and Rios 3,435.

Although he never looked like losing, Sampras was

clearly match-rusty against Krosiak and he admitted: "If I want to stay at the top then I have to play more. I'm tired both mentally and physically. The years take their toll on the circuit."

His match on Monday was only his second since his loss to Rafter in the semi-finals of the U.S. Open.

Seven of the world's top-ten players are competing in Vienna and in Monday's other matches Sweden's Thomas Enqvist, Jonas Bjorkman and Magnus Norman all claimed wins.

Enqvist saw off home player Wolfgang Schranz of Austria 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. Bjorkman beat Germany's David Prinosil 6-4, 7-6 (7/1) and Norman beat Daniel Vacek of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-4.

Frenchman Cedric Pioline was another winner. He defeated Australian Richard Fromberg 6-3, 7-6 (9/7).

ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR

The Ministry of Labour announces that its Expatriate Labourers Department, located in Jabal Hussein, Amman, opposite the Comprehensive School, is ready to receive applications from employers and their designated delegates for work permits for expatriate workers, in accordance with the following schedule:

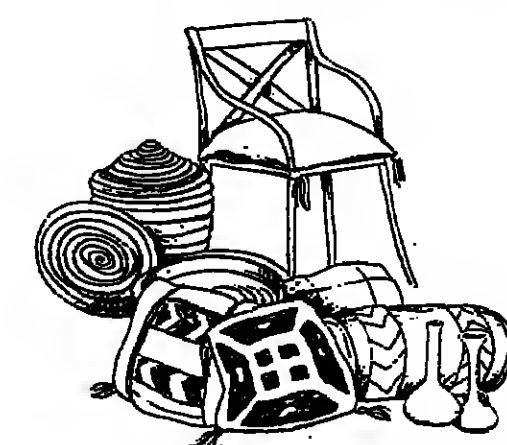
1. Saturday and Sunday of each week will be set aside for institutions where the number of work permits exceeds 10.
2. Monday and Tuesday will be set aside for regional offices employing Arab and foreign workers, as well as house maids.
3. Wednesday and Thursday will be set aside for other institutions and employers.
4. Labour and Employment Departments in other governorates of the Kingdom and at Amman Industrial Estate in Sahab will receive applications for work permits throughout the week.

Following are the required documents for obtaining work permits:

1. Copy of the Trade licence, effective throughout 1998.
2. Copy of the expatriate worker's passport, containing basic personal data about the worker.
3. Two photographs of the worker.
4. Medical Certificate issued by any Ministry of Health medical centre for the worker, who is employed for the first time.

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Syria has closed down separatist Turkish Kurds camps — Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Syria appears to have closed down camps of the separatist Turkish Kurds movement and was no longer sheltering its leader, Turkish Defence Minister Ismet Sezgin said Tuesday.

The statement is further proof of the easing of tension between the two countries that has threatened to escalate into a military conflict.

Turkey had accused Syria of providing logistical support to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) and of sheltering its leader Abdullah Ocalan either in Syria proper or in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa region of

Lebanon.

"We believe the leader of the PKK is no longer in Syria," said Sezgin Tuesday.

"This impression comes from meetings we have had with the Egyptian and Iranian foreign ministers (Amr Musa and Kamal Kharazi respectively). But we still need confirmation of this for ourselves," added Sezgin.

He did not say where Ocalan was.

"We also believe Syria has closed down camps belonging to the terrorists on its soil or on territory under its control," said Sezgin.

Turkey always refers to

the PKK as terrorists.

"Security committees will be created to double-check these impressions," said Sezgin.

Kharazi travelled to Ankara Friday, followed by Musa on Monday, in an attempt to defuse the mounting crisis between Turkey and Syria.

Musa said in a message to the Turkish authorities Monday that Syria was prepared to hold talks with Turkey on possible measures to be taken against the PKK, according to diplomatic sources quoted by the NTV television news channel.

Ankara received Musa's

message with "interest" but Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem demanded "actions, not words".

The row boiled up at the beginning of October and Turkey went so far as to threaten Syria with military reprisals if it failed to heed its warnings.

Syria had long denied supporting the PKK.

The PKK has been fighting an armed rebellion to create an independent Kurdish state in the southern Turkey, which is Kurdish-dominated. It is generally accepted that the rebellion has cost nearly 31,000 lives.

'Taleban release 10 Iranian truck drivers'

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghanistan's Taleban Islamic movement, which is locked in a tense standoff with Iran, released 10 Iranians on Tuesday, an Afghan news agency said.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) quoted a Taleban spokesman as saying from the southern Afghan city of Kandahar that the Iranians had been released on the orders of the militia's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

He said the prisoners were being flown out on Tuesday.

Their immediate destination was not known.

The spokesman said the 10 Iranians were part of a group of Iranian truck drivers arrested in August in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-e-Sharif when it was captured by the militia.

The prisoners, whose release

Last week the Taleban released and repatriated five Iranian traders who had been taken captive by the militia 15 months ago in western Afghanistan, as a result of efforts by Iran's ambassador to Saudi Arabia and a Saudi-based Afghan citizen.

Tuesday's release comes a day ahead of an expected visit to Kandahar of the U.N. peace envoy for Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, as part of his mission to try to ease tension between Iran and the Taleban militia.

Ibrahim is likely to meet Omar on Wednesday to discuss peace in Afghanistan and border tensions between the militia and Iran, which has massed a huge army on its Afghan border.

Ibrahim met Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad on Monday and gave assurances that the Pakistan government would fly on a plane of the International Committee of the Red Cross, he said.

Iraq puts off action on cooperation with inspectors

BAGHDAD (AP) — President Saddam Hussein and his top advisers decided Tuesday to delay a decision on resuming cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

INA said the decision came at a meeting chaired by Saddam of the Revolutionary Command Council and the regional command of the Baath Party.

The Iraqi leaders heard a report from Tariq Aziz, Iraq's deputy prime minister, who returned to Baghdad after a series of meetings in New York with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

"It was decided during the meeting to resume the discussion of these issues in a forthcoming meeting," INA said. It did not say when the next meeting would be.

The meeting here came as top U.N. weapons inspectors briefed the U.N. Security Council on the stalled arms inspections and U.N. efforts to determine whether Iraq loaded VX nerve gas into missile warheads.

Iraq and the United Nations have been at odds over U.N. weapons inspections, which were mandated by U.N. resolutions following the 1991 Gulf war, which ended Iraq's seven-

month occupation of Kuwait.

Iraq on Aug. 5 announced that it was suspending cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors. The U.N. Security Council retaliated by cancelling its regular reviews of the trade sanctions.

The sanctions limit Iraq's sale of oil, its economic mainstay. The Security Council has said they cannot be lifted until the inspectors certify that Iraq has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraqi agency said that at Tuesday's meeting, Saddam and his aides discussed "the flagrant American interference during the latest period in Iraq's domestic affairs."

The leadership was particularly angry at a decision by the U.S. Congress to channel up to \$97 million in military aid to opposition groups seeking to topple the Baghdad government, INA said.

The legislation also provides \$2 million to fund Radio Free Iraq to broadcast anti-government propaganda.

The leadership termed as "flagrant interference" in its national sovereignty meetings by U.S. officials with Kurdish leaders. The talks were aimed at ending infighting among the Kurds, who have set up a semi-autonomous region in northern Iraq.



An Iraqi woman sits near an empty crib as she heads a women demonstration in Baghdad on Tuesday to protest against the continued U.N. sanctions imposed on the country since 1990 (AFP photo)

25,000 Iraqi women stage protest against sanctions

BAGHDAD (AP) — About 25,000 Iraqi women marched through the streets Tuesday in a government-organised demonstration to express anger at U.N. trade sanctions.

It was the largest women's protest in Baghdad since the sanctions were imposed on Iraq in 1990 to punish it for invading Kuwait.

The women carried anti-American placards and shouted slogans against the U.S. government. "America is the enemy of God," they screamed as they approached the offices of the U.N. Development Programme

in Baghdad where the organisers handed a letter of protest.

Most of the women were clothed in black veils and many slapped their faces and beat their breasts at the sight of pick-up cars carrying symbolic coffins of children.

Authorities say thousands of children have died because of medicine shortages caused by the sanctions.

Rifa Marouf, a doctor at a Baghdad children's hospital, said about 200 babies die every day in her hospital. "Our children are dying. They are innocent and no one cares," she

said. Hana Mahmoud said she joined the demonstration to tell the world that Iraqi children 'cannot be held responsible for what happened'.

"They are not guilty. They have done nothing but they bear the brunt of sanctions," she said.

Iraq has often used such processions to win world sympathy and support for the lifting of sanctions.

The sanctions on Iraq will only be lifted when U.N. weapons inspectors testify that Baghdad has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat, Peres open Norwegian centre

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres inaugurated a cultural centre here Tuesday named after a former Norwegian mediator of Israeli-Palestinian peace agreements. The centre was funded by the Norwegian government in memory of Johan Jorgen Holst who, as Norwegian foreign minister, was one of the mediators of the 1993 Oslo agreement which was completed after secret negotiations between Israelis and the Palestinians in Norway. The Holst centre will have an activity centre for children and youth with a theatre, library, music rooms, kindergartens, a computer training centre, a gym and two cafeterias.

Israel eases clampdown on territories

HEBRON (AFP) — Israel's army lifted on Tuesday a two-week-old curfew on Palestinians living in the Israeli-controlled sector of Hebron and eased travel restrictions on residents of the rest of the occupied territories. Nearly 30,000 Palestinians with permits to work in Israel were also allowed to leave the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as of dawn following a 10-day-long total blockade of the Palestinian territories, an army spokesman said. Those allowed into Israel include 21,000 labourers and 8,000 merchants.

Cohen meets with King Fahd

RIYADH (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen met Tuesday with King Fahd during the last leg of a Gulf tour aimed at convincing allies to finance a regional missile defence system. During the meeting, the Saudi monarch briefed Cohen on efforts by the kingdom to try to resolve the dispute between Turkey and Syria over Kurdish guerrillas, diplomats said. The two also discussed the tension between Iran and Afghanistan. Cohen also met with the defence minister, Prince Sultan. Earlier, he toured the Prince Sultan Air Base south of Riyadh to visit some 5,000 U.S. troops stationed there.

Bahrain: Qatari poll includes disputed area

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain protested on Tuesday against a decision by Qatar to include areas disputed by the Gulf Arab neighbours in a forthcoming municipal election. A foreign ministry spokesman quoted by Bahrain's official Gulf News Agency (GNA) said: "The recent decision by the ministry of the interior of the brotherly state of Qatar to include the Zubarah region and the Hawar islands within the electoral districts for Qatar's central municipal council constitutes a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of the state of Bahrain." In Doha, a senior Qatari official confirmed the areas were included in its polling districts. But he rejected the Bahraini complaint, saying the town of Zubarah and the Hawar islands belonged to Qatar.

Iraq: Turkey threatening flow of rivers

BAGHDAD (R) — A senior Iraqi official was quoted as saying on Tuesday that Turkey was threatening the quality and flow of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers by building dams for power and irrigation. Iraq's Irrigation Minister Mahmoud Diyab Al Ahmad accused Turkey of blocking an agreement on sharing the waters of the two rivers with Iraq and Syria. "The [dam] project... which Turkey has built most of, is harmful to Iraq because it will affect the flow of water as well as its quality," Ahmad told the weekly newspaper Al Itihad.

Lebanon parliament votes amendment to pave way for Lahoud

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese parliament approved a constitutional amendment Tuesday which would allow army chief Emile Lahoud to assume the presidency in a house vote that officials said will be held Thursday.

"This is an historic moment in the history of our country and the road is now open for General Emile Lahoud to be elected president," Minister of Administrative Reforms Beshara Merhej, an MP, said after the session.

The overwhelmingly pro-

Syrian 128-member parliament, equally divided between Christians and Muslims, ratified the amendment by 113 votes to four. Eleven MPs were absent.

The MPs voted to amend Article 49 of the Lebanese constitution which bars state officials from becoming president within two years of leaving their posts. The amendment, which is for "one-time only and exceptionally," received cabinet approval last Thursday.

The assembly will meet for the electoral session after out-

going President Elias Hrawi promulgates the constitutional amendment adopted Tuesday, officials in House Speaker Nabih Berri's office said.

Lahoud must obtain two-thirds of the votes in the first round or an absolute majority in a following round, according to the constitution.

The general was named as Hrawi's successor following a hastily arranged summit in Damascus Monday between the Lebanese head of state and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria, the main powerbroker in

Lebanon.

Syria maintains 35,000 troops across 75 per cent of Lebanon and has dominated political life here since Hrawi became president in November 1989. His term was exceptionally extended for another three years in 1995.

Lahoud, 62, will be the first president elected in peacetime since the start of the Lebanese civil war in 1975.

Appointed army chief in November 1989, Lahoud is credited with reunifying the Lebanese army, which had

splintered into Christian and Muslim militias during the 15-year conflict.

But the selection of Lahoud at a summit in Damascus and the choice of a soldier to become president has sparked a wave of controversy in Lebanon.

Maverick MP Najah Wakim, who voted against the amendment, accused the "authorities of not respecting the constitution and the law because the amendment was introduced for the sake of one particular person."

Egyptian women fight for right to hold religious, judicial posts

By Hassan Mekki
Agence France Presse

CAIRO — Two women are mounting assaults on Egypt's last all-male bastions, in bids to become a mufti, the country's highest Muslim official, and a judge.

Unlike their sisters in some parts of the male-dominated Arab World, Egyptian women can become ambassadors, cabinet ministers or members of parliament, but they cannot wear a mufti's "inma or inama" (headress) or a judge's black robe.

But Suad Saleh, a theology professor at the prestigious Sunni Muslim Al Azhar University, wants to scale the walls of the country's Islamic establishment and become a mufti with the power to issue fatwas

(religious decrees).

"Nothing in the Sharia [Islamic law] says that women cannot issue fatwas," said Saleh, a 51-year-old mother of two boys and two girls who is known for her deep understanding of Muslim theology.

Like other conservative Muslims, Saleh wears a veil and does not shake the hands of male visitors. Nevertheless, she started informally issuing religious advice on matters concerning women 10 years ago.

"This summer I asked the state mufti, Sheikh Nasr Farid Wassef, for an official appointment to become his deputy for women's affairs," Saleh told AFP.

"I haven't received a reply yet, but I hope that I will be able to convince the religious authorities of my good intentions and that

sooner or later I will be able to reach my goal," she said.

Saleh believes that Islam could benefit from a female touch. "In the Middle East, women think twice before approaching a man [mufti] with intimate questions. These are the types of questions that women ask me, and if I were to become mufti I could reach women," she said.

Identifying her enemies as "conservatism and tradition," lawyer Atma Lashin is also fighting — but for a seat on the bench.

"I've been obsessed all my life with the dream of becoming a judge," the 35-year-old told AFP.

"In ancient Egypt, there were women priests and queens, and they acted as judges," she said. "Our constitution calls

for equality between men and women, and there are no laws banning women from becoming magistrates," she said.

In 1996, the council of state, which rules on matters in which citizens challenge the state, said it was "incompetent" to issue a verdict concerning her request to become judge.

Lashin took her case to the cassation court in a last resort to get a favourable verdict, and a hearing has been set for Nov. 3.

"I will not give up. Even if the court rules against me I will encourage other women lawyers to follow suit," she said.

Lashin said she was hounded in her struggle by Suzanne Mubarak, the wife of President Hosni Mubarak, who earlier this year said she was in favour

of women becoming judges.

In the meantime, the government is keeping a low profile on the quests of Lashin and Saleh.

"The authorities are afraid of fanning the indignation of Islamists who are hostile to any effort aimed at promoting women's rights," said lawyer Tahani Al Gabali.

Summing up the position of Islamists, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Mamun Al Hudeiby, said: "We must not forget that women have a key duty: to take care of their homes and their children."

"The Sharia does not ban women from becoming judges or muftis although there is no need for a woman to become officially in charge of issuing fatwas," he said.

Baby albatross too fat to fly

WELLINGTON (AFP) — One real fat chick is causing amusement at the world's only mainland royal albatross colony. The fellow hatched last year but has found the good life of mum, dad and endless free food too much and now cannot fly. He should have left Dunedin's Tairāra Head in southern New Zealand about mid-September, along with the rest of the chicks, but is still sitting on the ground uselessly flapping his wings. The Department of Conservation said the chick, which had weighed as much as 13 kilograms, has now slimmed down to nine kilograms. Department staff say he may make it off the ground if there is the right wind soon.

Food for thought

BOSTON (AP) — It's a menu to whet the appetite of any seafood connoisseur: Crab cakes, grilled yellowfin tuna, savory clam chowder and breaded haddock. There's just one problem for some customers: It's all being served at Boston's New England Aquarium. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which wants the aquarium to adopt a vegetarian menu with such soybean items as "Not-Dogs" and "Tu-No," plans a protest this week at the aquarium. "How can you display fish that are so beautiful, then turn around and eat them?" said Christine Dorchak, an animal rights activist in Boston. "We don't serve our exhibits," said Sue Knapp, a spokeswoman for the aquarium, which sits on the edge of Boston Harbor. "We want to foster an appreciation for the aquatic world. Eating seafood can be a part of that."

Sex change fish cause farmers headaches

SYDNEY (AFP) — Male barramundi are letting down the side by changing into females well before they should. This distressing problem has Australian fish farmers in a bind. No one knows just why the barramundi are opting out of their breeding responsibilities. "We choose the best males as breeders," barramundi farmer Chris Phillips said in a statement Tuesday. "Then they go and turn into big girls on us." The farmers have called in scientists from the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Aquaculture to help find the problem. CRC aquaculture specialist Trevor Anderson said all barramundi were born as males. "Normally they change to females when they are about six years old. But young males selected to be breeding stock at the farms are changing prematurely when they are only two years old," he said.

Travel with sheep is cheap

OBAN (AP) — Some residents of the Hebridean Islands off the west coast of Scotland have found the secret of cheap vacations — travel with sheep. Ever since the ferry company Calsonic MacBrayne introduced discounted fares for farmers taking their livestock to market, some vacationers crossing to the mainland have packed sheep along with their suntan lotion and passports. The company says. Throughout the summer, members of the ferry staff say they were puzzled by the number of sheep travelling in cars filled with bulging suitcases. After monitoring a succession of farmers who returned weeks later with a suntan and a woolly tale of beasts that couldn't be sold at market, the ferry company realised it had stumbled on a scam that saved islanders more than 100 pounds (\$170) a journey.